

*“Lord,  
it is good  
for us to  
be here ...”*

... **Here** at St Joseph’s Hunters Hill (from 12 to 15 January 2012) where near to 185 Brothers from the Melbourne and Sydney Provinces gathered to share brotherhood and prepare for the inauguration of the new Province of Australia.

The Brothers who were charged with organising this event deserve our whole-hearted gratitude for a very successful outcome. The atmosphere throughout the gathering was relaxed and contributed to the full participation of the Brothers. Organisation-wise, the structures facilitated the achievement of the aims: of getting to know one another as well as our beginning to develop a one Province culture; appreciating where we are NOW in terms of what is bringing life and discerning and choosing our future.

Some of the highlights were the prayer in table groups and the liturgy, the informative Forums and the alfresco dining where the conviviality and camaraderie exposed a much appreciated aspect of the gift of brotherhood.

The passing to the fullness of life of Brothers Charles Howard and Steve Bugg (although unexpected in his case), did not dampen our engagement with one another. The efficacy of their presence was experienced through the Spirit in whom we are all one. Their faith,

giftedness and courage continues to sustain us.

**Here** also refers to the *here now – Kairos time*. The theme for our gathering, “See I am doing something new!” caused us to consider the meaning of our vocation to religious life as Marist Brothers, for today. We were encouraged as we affirmed the experience of God’s love in our lives. The example of Mary going in haste to Elizabeth, trusting in the power of God’s spirit which enabled her whole-hearted **yes**, urges us to live authentically the way of our Founder. We believe our lives will make a difference when they proclaim something life-giving in a secular world where self-centredness, image and ego are the pseudo gods of a soul-destroying materialism.

Although we were not able to come to consensus about the process for the sondage for the new Provincial, the rights and responsibilities of each brother in the process were affirmed. We also recognised that in spite of generational differences, the new Provincial will be capable, competent and experienced (perhaps approximating the many qualities that we nominated!), but above all, one who exhibits a love for his religious vocation and all things Marist. We will clearly recognise and appreciate this brother, whoever he is.

# National Gathering of Brothers

WORDS **DES HOWARD FMS**



A periodic publication exploring a new Province vision for Australian Marists

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## Province of Australia

Whilst many may already be aware, is with great pleasure we announce that the name of our new province is the **Province of Australia**. The New Province Facilitation Group was grateful to receive the many submissions and indications of preferences which were fed to the Sydney and Melbourne Provincial Councils and in turn to the Superior General and his Council. Being 'named' will certainly help us on our planning efforts on the journey towards the inauguration of the Province at the end of this year. There'll be celebrations in the cities of Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to give thanks for and mark the end of the Melbourne and Sydney Provinces as we have known them.

The following communiqué was received just as schools were firing up across our country for the 2012 academic year.

### DECISION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

7 January 2012 Session

Item 6.1

#### MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY - Creation of a New Province

In application of articles 137.4.1 and 125.1 of our Constitutions and Statutes, Br Superior General with his Council have decided on the creation of a new province composed of the current provinces of Melbourne and Sydney, as well as the District of Melanesia, which depends on the province of Sydney. This also makes provision for the incorporation of the current province of New Zealand, which will then become a District.

The new Province has been juridically erected by a decree of the Superior General. It will take the name of AUSTRALIA and officially begin its existence on 8 December 2012.



*Rec'd Team*



## Praying the New Story

May my mind come alive today  
To the invisible geography  
That invites me to new frontiers,  
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,

May I have the courage today  
To live the life that I would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
To do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more.

John O'Donohue  
in *To Bless This Space Between Us*



## Youth Evangelisation Conference



∞ PRAYING THE NEW STORY Food for the Marist soul on our journey towards the new province ∞ PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA Br Emili and his Council approve the formation of a new Province in Australia and announce its name ∞ YOUTH EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE A snapshot of the most recent program held at The Hermitage ∞

Against the gospel backdrop of the Emmaus story over sixty Marist school Campus and Youth Ministers, Religious Education Co-ordinators, Directors of Mission, members of the Remar Ministry Team and other young adults connected with Marist schools gathered at The Hermitage, Mittagong for three days of inspiration, intellectual challenge and sharing of wisdom around the theme of the evangelisation of young people.

The engagement of young people at the conference was commented on very positively, not least by the young people themselves. The Province of Australia looks forward to supporting and encouraging local evangelisation initiatives across the country and engaging with parishes and dioceses to promote a Catholic way of living in the world and making Jesus Christ known and loved.

## Regional Gatherings of Marists

One of the main 'new' elements in the new Marist province of Australia is Marists, Brothers and Lay, sharing co-responsibly for the future of Marist vision, life and mission in Australia.

Like all relationships that move beyond simply being good friends, the choice to share a future entails a lot of getting to know and respect each others' hopes, dreams and fears as well as their 'way of doing things'.

This year we will have two important events that fully express our desire to share our future: 18 Regional Gatherings of Marists (taking place throughout April, May and June) and our Province Mission Assembly in August.

Each one of us has a great opportunity to contribute at one of those Regional Gatherings of Marists being hosted right across the country. These meetings, usually around three hours in length and including a snack or meal, are threefold in their purpose.

- They're a space in which some detailed communication about the development of the

Province of Australia can be shared.

- The Mission Council wants to hear our thoughts and feelings about shared Marist life and mission. Our work at the regional gatherings will generate very significant data for the Province Mission Assembly 'New Province New Horizons' (additionally, Marists are invited to make comment in response to topics posted at [www.champagnat.org.au/about-mission-assembly-2012/](http://www.champagnat.org.au/about-mission-assembly-2012/) or on twitter at [#newprovincenewhorizons](https://twitter.com/newprovincenewhorizons)) 
- It's hoped we will experience a shared appreciation of the growing, vibrant expression we are of Marcellin's dream in our part of the world. Experience at the meetings held so far is that peoples' identity as Marists has been strengthened by the very act of gathering.

Thanks to many people across the country for efforts in co-ordinating dates and times, invitations and locations as well as providing hospitality to support the content and process of the Regional Gatherings of Marists. 

### Schedule of gatherings across the country

Adelaide - Mitchell Park (31 May)  
Alice Springs - Santa Teresa (20 May)  
Brisbane (28 May)  
Cairns (26 May)  
Canberra (16 May)  
Emerald (19 May)  
Forbes (31 May)  
Gippsland - Traralgon (31 May)  
Hunter Valley - Newcastle (10 May)  
Kilmore (17 June)  
Macarthur (5 June)  
Melbourne - Bulleen (3 June)  
North-Eastern Victoria - Shepparton (9 May)  
Northern Rivers - Lismore (24 April)  
Perth (7 June)  
Sunshine Coast - Sunshine Beach (1 May)  
Sydney East - Randwick (8 June)  
Sydney West - Dundas (27 May)



∞ **MILESTONES** Some key markers for us as we make our way towards being a new province ∞ **FIRST PROVINCIAL CHAPTER STEERING COMMITTEE & DELEGATES** A listing of Brothers elected to this event which immediately follows the Inauguration of the province of Australia ∞ **MISSION ASSEMBLY DELEGATES** See who's gathering at The Hermitage, Mittagong in August this year ∞

## CODEBREAKING: MISSION ASSEMBLY

# MILESTONES FOR 2012

- Regional gatherings for Marists across the country
- Establishing the Oceania Council and the development of the Oceania Statutes
- Process of Sondage for the new Provincial
- Appointment of key personnel
- Election of the First Provincial Chapter Steering Committee
- Preparation for the National Mission Assembly
- Province Jubilee Celebrations in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney
- Announcement of the new Provincial
- National Mission Assembly
  - ▶ 12–15 August
- Preparation for the Inauguration of the New Province
- Preparation for the First Provincial Chapter
- Closure Rituals in each province
- Inauguration of the Province of Australia
  - ▶ 8 December
- First Provincial Chapter
  - ▶ 9–12 December
- Melanesian Convocation



### First Provincial Chapter Steering Committee

Br Anthony Robinson (chair)  
Provincial Elect  
Br Peter Carroll  
Br Paul Kane  
Br Graham Neist

PROVINCE OF  
AUSTRALIA

### First Provincial Chapter Delegates

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Provincial Elect      | Br Desmond Howard   |
| Br Robert Aitken      | Br Paul Kane        |
| Br Michael Akers      | Br Tony Leon        |
| Br Jeffrey Barrington | Br Lawrence McCane  |
| Br Darren Burge       | Br Ken McDonald     |
| Br Tony Caddy         | Br John McMahon     |
| Br Michael Callinan   | Br Graham Neist     |
| Br Kelvin Canavan     | Br Mark O'Connor    |
| Br Peter Carroll      | Br Tony Paterson    |
| Br Julian Casey       | Br Anthony Robinson |
| Br Dennis Cooper      | Br William Selden   |
| Br Peter Corr         | Br Anthony Shears   |
| Br Jeffrey Crowe      | Br Allen Sherry     |
| Br Michael Flanagan   | Br William Sullivan |
| Br Paul Gilchrist     | Br Brian Sweeney    |
| Br Matthew Green      | Br John Thompson    |
| Br Michael Green      | Br Alexis Turton    |
| Br David Hall         | Br Peter Walsh      |
| Br John Hilet         |                     |

The Mission Assembly to be held from 12–15 August 2012 invites delegates, Lay Marists and Brothers, to enter into dialogue to further refine the statement on National Marist Mission and priorities for our ministry in this 'new land' of the Province of Australia, based on the substantial data gathered from the 18 Regional Gatherings of Marists across the country. Other tasks the delegates will do include refining the charter of the Mission Council, finalising its structure and agreeing on the process of choosing members.

### DELEGATES DELEGATES DELEGATES

|                      |                      |                         |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Br Michael Akers     | Ms Catherine Hannon  | Mr Carl Muir            |
| Mr Andrew Balkwill   | Mr Gavin Hays        | Mr Mark Murphy          |
| Mr Bernie Boss       | Ms Maddie Hellings   | Br Graham Neist         |
| Ms Simone Boyd       | Mr Shane Hennessy    | Mr Diarmuid O'Riordan   |
| Mr Matthew Brennan   | Mr Paul Herrick      | Br Mark Paul            |
| Br Darren Burge      | Mr Ashley Higgins    | Ms Erica Pegorer        |
| Mr Bernard Burgess   | Br John Hilet        | Br Anthony Robinson     |
| Br Michael Callinan  | Br Daniel Hollamby   | Ms Cassandra Schumacher |
| Br Julian Casey      | Br Paul Kane         | Br William Selden       |
| Mr Tony Clarke       | Mrs Julia Lederwasch | Br Allen Sherry         |
| Mrs Gail Coates      | Br Tony Leon         | Mr Richard Sidorko      |
| Br Patrick Connell   | Ms Sheree Limbrick   | Mr Yves Silveira        |
| Br Jeffrey Crowe     | Mr Chris Maley       | Mrs Cate Sydes          |
| Mrs Alannah Darmody  | Mr Frank Malloy      | Mr Ross Tarlinton       |
| Mr John Finneran     | Mrs Marie Martin     | Br Rod Thomson          |
| Br Michael Flanagan  | Mr James Mazzolini   | Mr Brian Vane-Tempest   |
| Ms Leonie Flynn      | Mrs Christine McCabe | Mrs Carole Wark         |
| Br Mark Fordyce      | Mr Joe McCarthy      | Mrs Carmel Warnock      |
| Mr Mario Frazzetto   | Mr Darren McGregor   | Mrs Jacqui Winmill      |
| Br Justin Golding    | Mrs Marian McKinley  | Mr Mark Woolford        |
| Br Matthew Green     | Ms Lee McKenzie      |                         |
| Br Michael Green     | Mr Peter McLoughlin  | Br John Klein           |
| Mrs Dianne Grinbergs | Br John McMahon      | <i>General Council</i>  |
| Br David Hall        | Mr Peter McNamara    | Fr Pius Jones           |
|                      |                      | <i>Chaplain</i>         |