

new lands

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARIST COMMUNITY

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The Rubber Hits the Road!

It's a great saying 'the rubber hits the road'—we all know what it means. It is about things getting started for real. To move from theory to practice. Preparation over. Planning done. It's now or never. Watching the finals of the snowboarding at Sochi recently, the competitors were perched at the top of the mountain. They stared at the snow slopes beneath them picturing what might be. Maybe a dream run and a gold medal. Maybe landing a

difficult manoeuvre. Then, the moment came. The snowboard tilted downwards and their run began. Game on. No more could've, should've, would've! The rubber hit the road – or in this case, the board hit the snow. Reality, now.

In 2014, the rubber hits the road for the **Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat**. In May, all people in the Australian Marist Community will be invited to consider becoming a member of the Association. Behind the scenes much planning and preparation has been

happening. The Association Task Force has been dealing with canonical and civil implications, and preparing the petition that will eventually be sent to the Holy See for approval. At many conferences and forums over the past 12 months, people directly involved in leadership and animation of Marist life across all ministries and Province teams have engaged in dialogue about the purpose of the Association. The AMC Forum at Mittagong in August 2013 provided an opportunity for a representative group of Marists to help shape the developments of the Marist Association.

Now the rubber hits the road. The ball is in our court. Do I feel strongly about the Marist way of living a Christian life – my Marist vocation? Am I able to help build local Marist community in the place I live and work? Do I want to help ensure that Marist mission and life across Australia has vitality and viability 30 years from now? Do I feel drawn to participate in the life of the Church in new way? Have I grown and benefited through my connection with Marist spirituality and want to give

something back? If the inkling to one or more of these questions is 'yes', the Marist Association might be worth exploring.

The Marist Association will become a body of Marists who will become the living witness for coresponsibility – Brothers, together with all other people who identify as Marist. A new relationship. We will help shape and vision Marist mission and life into the future. We will discover new ways to build local Marist community over meals, prayer and spiritual reflection. Together, we will create new opportunities for formation and deepening our spiritual journey and vocation as Marists. We will understand ourselves as a part of the life of the wider Church, as we are coopted into God's activity. Together we will come to know 'God's mission has Marists', and even more, that 'God's mission has me!'

See you there!
Cheers, Joe





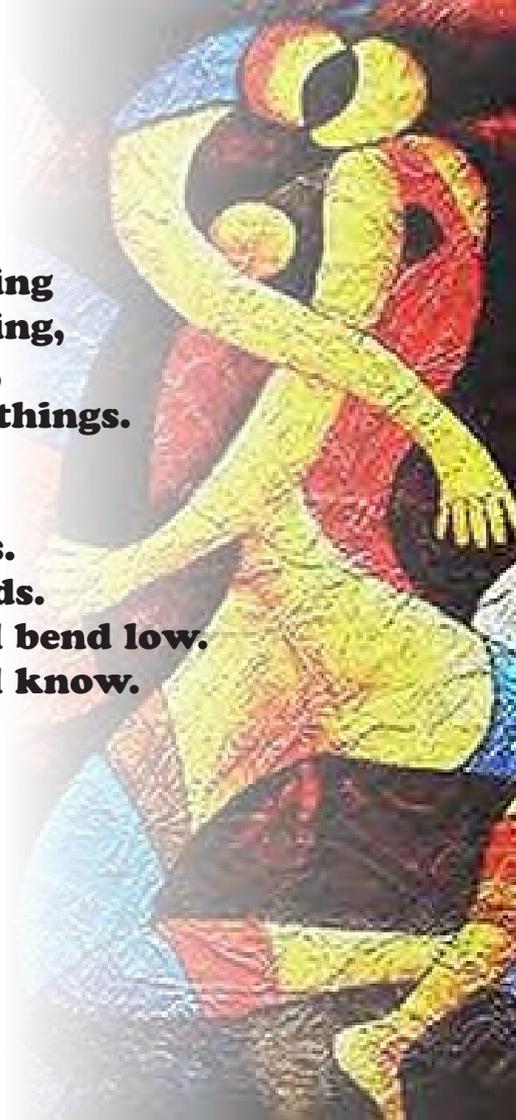
including **Brothers Frank Mc Intosh, Paul Hough and Terry Costello** from New Zealand.

Sarah Nowlan (teacher, Forbes) and **Jack Stammers** (Young Marist, Melbourne) have been selected by the Mission Council to attend the International Mission Assembly in Nairobi in September this year. They will join **Br Michael Green and Frank Malloy** who is on the Assembly organising committee. They will link up with delegates from the Districts of Melanesia and the Pacific prior to heading off. Congratulations to Sarah and Jack.

Julia Lederwasch (Hamilton) has been appointed to the Association Taskforce and **Liz Falconer** to the Oceania Partnership Commission to replace **Carole Wark**. Carole has had to cut back on her work commitments for health reasons.

Melissa Clohesy has been appointed to the Oceania Council to replace Catherine Hannon.

Br Peter Carroll, Deputy Provincial, has been appointed as the Provincial's Delegate for Professional Standards. The Provincial retains ultimate authority and responsibility for all such matters, and will make the final decision on pastoral, legal and financial matters. The Deputy Provincial will liaise closely with **Mr Norm Maroney**, the Province Professional Standards Officer. The intention of this delegation is to leave the Provincial freer for pastoral and other leadership responsibilities.



**Ground of All Being
Ground of All Being,
Breath of all Life,
Spirit within all things.
Open our eyes.
Open our ears.
Stir in our hearts.
Awaken our minds.
And then we will bend low.
And then we will know.
That all is Holy.
All is one.
All is Holy.
Wholly one**

(Jan Novotka)

Australian Brothers from MAPAC are heading home for holiday breaks from the end of this month. Welcome home to **Bryan Davis** and **Bill McCarthy**. **Tony Burrows** will also be coming home for a break in April from Cambodia.

Br Fons van Rooij has returned to East Timor after a home break. **Br Peter Walsh** will be home for a month from March 25 before heading to Sri Lanka to the international novitiate. Our thanks to Peter for his work in East Timor as language and course tutor to staff who are doing their Masters from Australian Catholic University. **Mr Peter White** and **Br Tony D'Arbon** will be replacing Br Peter in April and early May to mid-June respectively.

Blessings on our pilgrims who leave for India, Rome and the Hermitage in mid-April. **Br Michael Akers** is leading the pilgrimage, assisted by **Liz Falconer** and **Fr Bob Barber SM** as chaplain. In all, they will be 25,

CANBERRA MARISTS

We celebrated St Patricks Day in style on Monday night this week with Guinness, green food and a healthy dose of good Irish cheer! The gathering also centred around preparation for the International Nairobi Mission Assembly, with the group breaking open the Marist text 'Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth'. Br Greg McDonald also shared his insights about evangelisation and working with young people in his current role as Director of Vocations for the Marist Brothers Province Australia. Our next Canberra Marist event is the Way of the Cross on Friday 8th April, 10am at the College.

We would also like your help in promoting the upcoming Br Mark May Cycle Challenge on 5 & 6 April. Many of you were good friends of Br Mark May and knew of the wonderful work he did with Marist boys and their families for many years in Canberra. The Brother Mark Bursary helps extremely disadvantaged boys to have the advantages that more than 5,000 graduates of Marist College have received. These boys come from families living near the poverty line who cannot afford the education these graduates received. A team of riders have volunteered to complete a challenging bike ride. More information about the event and donation details can be found [here](#):

*Nathan Ahearne
Canberra Marists Key Animator*



International Nairobi Mission Assembly #2

This second gathering centred around preparation for the International Nairobi Mission Assembly, with the group breaking open the Marist text 'Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth'. Br Greg McDonald also shared his insights about evangelisation and working with young people in his current role as Director of Vocations for the Marist Brothers Province Australia.

The following quotes sum up some of the collective wisdom from the evening...

"I was speaking with some classmates at uni, who had absolutely no idea about the 'Last Supper' only that it was represented in a painting"

*"we need to **cross boundaries**, to go to the places where young people have never heard the Gospel!"*

"evangelisation happens through our relationships"

"to be an effective witness of our faith we often need to close our mouths"

*"young people really seek true **authenticity** in those who are proclaiming the good news"*

"we need to be in the day to day, hum drum of young people's lives, that's where we connect and that's where we change lives"

"it is a real privilege to be able to work alongside lay people at Marist each day who inspire and challenge me to live our my Marist vocation"

*"**breaking bread** is a key part of the way we live out our mission"*

"many times we aren't conscious that we are evangelising"



PRINCIPALS' GATHERING AT MITTAGONG

The Principals of our 50+ Marist schools from around Australia recently met for at The Hermitage, Mittagong, for their biennial conference.

Every second year they gather as a Province-wide group of Principals, while in the alternate years they join with other members of their leadership teams for the much bigger Australian Marist Schools Conference.

As is custom now, the 2014 Conference was a mixture of formation, discussion of current priorities and directions, and also a time to enhance everyone's mutual knowledge and collegiality as Marist leaders. A major activity of the Conference is a workshopping of the recent doctoral dissertation of Jennifer Elvery from Marist College Ashgrove. Jennifer looked at

the potential and the challenges for those in middle leadership roles (e.g. heads of department, heads of house, year-level pastoral coordinators) to lead in a Marist way.



L-R: Chris Morrissey (Marist College Canberra), Brenda King (St Francis de Sales Regional College Leeton), Alison Gallio (Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre Santa Teresa)

Another major topic of discussion, was the launch this year of the Marist Association of St Marcellin, the new canonical entity to which Australian Marists will be invited to join.

The Conference Mass was led by Father Gary Perritt CP. During the Eucharist, there was the formal induction of St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton, to membership of Marist Schools Australia, following a three-year process of focused discernment. It was a wonderful moment to welcome Leeton back to the Marist family.



L-R: Diarmuid O'Riordan (St Peter Claver College Riverview), Ross Tarlinton (St Joseph's College Hunters Hill), Br Darren Burge (St Augustine's College Cairns), Mark Murphy (Marcellin College Bulleen)



[see the video here](#)

The annual Marist Solidarity campaign is a program organized by MAPS, the International development agency of the Marist Brothers in Australia. It is an Australia wide educational campaign usually conducted during Lent in 50 Australian Marist associated schools. This year the theme is "Marist Solidarity ...because young people matter".

Young people of our Marist community in Australia stand in a unique position. Their actions of solidarity with the marginalised young people in Asia and the Pacific is causing a shift in not only the lives of individuals but in communities of hundreds of people. All because of programs providing training and education in schools, study centres, health centres and universities and all because we recognise that young people matter.

Community Leaders' Conference

The Province's 31 Community Leaders gathered at Mittagong last Thursday for their annual gathering. Jeff, Peter and Paul were also in attendance.

The programme was varied: Michael and Ryan from the MLF team presented the #Serve programme, Neville gave some

insights into the Francis Effect, with special reference to Evangelii Gaudium, Jeff and Joe McCarthy outlined the proposed Marist Association of St Marcellin, Anthony, Daniel, Jeff and Peter from the Business Office explained their areas of responsibility and responded to financial

questions, and there was ample time for discussion about the Royal Commission and a slew of practical matters.

The programme of presentations and discussions, together with the prayers and liturgies, fine food, great hospitality and relaxing surroundings made it an

enjoyable time together. The gathering was characterized by a real sense of brotherhood, positive spirits and a healthy dose of good humour.

The organizing Committee of Tony Caddy, Bill Selden and John Thompson did a superb job in shaping a beneficial and enjoyable time for all who attended. Many thanks to the Hermitage Staff, the Mittagong Brothers and all the presenters.

