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# REMAR AUSTRALIA

## *The Exodus Young Adult Community*

Some readers of *Newsletter* may not be aware of the work of Remar Australia.

Remar is a youth ministry program operating in many Catholic schools across Australia. It targets students in Years 10, 11 and 12. It is a movement in Christian formation as it encourages young people to discover their personal call, through being a disciple of Christ. The four focus areas of Remar are: Evangelisation and faith development; personal development and leadership formation; strong experience of being a part of a community; social justice, ministry and service to others.

Remar has been operating in schools for many years now and a great number who have been influenced by the experience are still actively involved in supporting the programme. They are being Christian witnesses in their communities. In schools, the program is supported by generous leaders, most of whom are teachers.

A Remar Leadership Team operates across Australia, supporting the work of school leaders. This Team is based in Melbourne and is very competently led by Simone Boyd. Assisting Simone, are five Team members, all of whom were Remar members in their schools last year.



These fine young leaders live together in the economically and socially disadvantaged suburb of West Heidelberg where they are



supported by the Olympic Village Exodus Community.

When they are not out of Melbourne, members of this Exodus Young Adult Community (EYAC), as they are locally known, minister in the West Heidelberg neighbourhood with members of the Exodus Community as a part of their Remar work.

The experience of living and ministering in an area where there is significant poverty authenticates their promotion of social justice and works of service to students they work with in Remar.

Exodus ministries where EYAC members participate include:

- weekly Food Service operating at a local Housing Estate,
- local area Bike Hut where young people can have their bikes and scooters maintained and have a friendly chat,
- weekly distribution of donated bread
- an after school program supporting primary aged students,
- Story Time group for pre-school children.

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**EYAC** also offers hospitality to house visitors, supports Exodus activities when asked and members make home visits to families in the various ministries in which they are involved.

Each week, Br Harry Prout and Sr Sally Bradley, the two full-time members of the Exodus Community, have a meal with the Young Adult Community, introduce them to local people including members of organizations and agencies working amongst the disadvantaged of the area and offer assistance in forming community. Meal times are fun and an opportunity to review ministry experiences and plan for upcoming events.

This year, the Marist Brothers Melbourne Province are covering the portion of the House rent that was previously paid by Exodus. This has enabled Exodus to support other pressing local needs. Exodus offers an annual hospitality allowance to **EYAC** for their ongoing ministry costs.

Recently, Br Harry had the opportunity to take the place of Simone in Alice Springs where the Team worked with Year 11 and Year 10 students at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School. It was a wonderful chance to see the impact of Remar on a school community and to know the significance of the various programmes the Team can offer schools as they work with students through their Remar year. Team members work professionally in a well planned and creative way to engage with and enthuse students and staff. Congratulations to all involved.

May I recommend the national work of Remar to your prayers.



*Br Harry Prout  
Exodus Community*



# *St Michel College - Vanuatu*

*Br Stanley Bakere, FMS*



2011 has been a busy year for the staff and students of St Michel College. At the start of the school term, we welcomed a total of 308 students into the college, the largest number of student intake in the history of the school. We have students from grade 7 up to grade 12. The vast majority of these students come from the different islands of Vanuatu.



*Students lead the prayer on the feast of the Assumption*



*Students on Francophonie Day*

The school also offers technical courses. This year alone 31 students enrolled to do technical training. This is very significant for the college. This marks another milestone in the development and growth of the college as it strives to provide quality education to the young people of Vanuatu. This is the first intake of grade 11 students to do technical studies at St Michel. The courses offered are: Tourism and Hospitality, Catering and Basic Housekeeping. Plans are also underway to offer courses in Carpentry, Basic Mechanics and Metal Fabrications next year. At the moment, two of our technical teachers are preparing to go to Vanga Point for an immersion

experience,; hopefully their time in Vanga Point will be beneficial for our students here.

We also took part in various community celebrations this year. The first celebration we participated in was the Francophonie Day. All French Speaking Schools in Santo came together to mark the occasion. Our teachers and students were very involved in the celebration. The theme of the day was “Artistic Expressions”. The main aim of the celebration was to acknowledge the hard work French Speaking Schools have done through the years, and continue to do so today, in providing quality education to the young people of Vanuatu.

We also celebrated Children’s Day. The Day reminded us of the rights of children and the responsibility we as adults, parents and teachers, have towards those children under our care. And then, of course, came the Vanuatu Independence Day Celebrations which lasted 3 days and 3 nights. I think the highlight of all these celebrations was the Assumption Day.

We, as a school community began the Assumption Day with reflection and prayer on the evening of Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. At 5:30 pm we gathered in the church to meditate and reflect on the Role and the Faith Journey of Mary our good mother. Then we had a candle-light procession, praying for each other and for world peace. I was taken by surprise by the involvement of the students and by their show of simple faith. It was indeed a night of joy and blessings. Then on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>, we joined the local community on a pilgrimage where we walked up the bush to the nearest sub-parish where mass was celebrated.



*The Principal, Mr Theophile*



*Students preparing lunch*

The Students of St Michel are very friendly and generous, always willing to help and participate in all school activities. The good thing about our students is that they put a lot of effort and hard work into whatever they do. We do have disciplinary issues but nothing complicated. Our Principal Mr Theophile does his best to address these issues with students concerned. We have two school Masses each week. At times, on Sundays, our students lead the singing in the church with Br Clement and Br Andrew assisting them. Our students sing beautifully in church.

We are coming to the end of our second term and at the end of this week we are closing

school and leaving for our term break. This term we worked really hard. At the start of our second term we decided to set up various departments in our school structure. So all throughout this term we have been writing up policies for each department, having regular meetings to discuss ways in which this would help us as we educate our young students. It's been hard work but very necessary. **As Jacques Barzun said: "In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years".**

I am sure that what we are developing now in the school will have a long-term effect in the way we educate the students here at St Michel. It will have an effect on the way we assess students and in the way we present our lessons in class. It will also have an effect in the way we organise our work and the way in which we approach our work as educators. As Marists let us continue to educate in the way of Champagnat.

*Gabbie: our Guest*



# Farewell to the Brothers at Traralgon

Br Kevin Hoare FMS

It is now just over a year since the Brothers' house at Traralgon was closed and the four Brothers were appointed elsewhere - **Br Bill Dillon** to Coburg in Melbourne, **Br Mark Needham** to Sale, while remaining a member of the Lavalla Catholic College staff to the end 2010. This year, he is the community superior at Alice Springs. **Br Kevin Hoare** returned to make the fourth member at Santa Teresa while **Br Anthony O'Brien** became a member of the Forbes community and lives at the Jemalong Residential Village. He is now much closer to his family who live near Warren.



*Brs Anthony O'Brien, Kevin Hoare.  
Mark Nedham, Bill Dillon*

Thus, sadly, after more than fifty plus years of administration and being part of Catholic Education in Traralgon, the Brothers have departed. The Marists had a presence even before this, as the Brothers took over the school from the Marist Fathers who started the secondary school for boys back in the early fifties.

In those days, just after the war, this part of the Latrobe Valley was rapidly developing because of the large deposits of brown coal and the building of new power stations using this resource; one of the latest power stations is only a few kms from the Brothers house.



At present, Lavalla Catholic College is spread over three Campuses ... **St Paul's**, Traralgon and **Presentation**, Newborough, both offering places for Years 7 to 9 students, while **Kildare** houses the senior students, Years 10 to 12. These Campuses educate some twelve hundred students in the Marist tradition.



Just before the Brothers departed, the parish invited them to a farewell Mass to thank them and to ask God's blessings on their future apostolate.

At the end of this Mass the parish priest, **Fr Peter Bickley**, made a presentation to the Brothers of a framed photo of the Sanctuary. After the Mass, there was morning tea at which people said their personal good-byes.

The Brothers' house was situated on a lovely, quiet, five hectare site some six kilometres outside the town where Brothers, over the years, had plenty of land for gardening, raising chickens and a few head of cattle. Br Anthony had quite a large workshop in which he did his art welding and the running repairs.



For their final evening meal together the Brothers went to the local RSL.

The Brothers look back with pleasure and appreciation for their time at Traralgon and wholeheartedly thank those they worked with and whose friendship they enjoyed.



## ***Young Brothers, Novices and Postulants meet the Brother Superior General***



Gathered for the Marist International gathering prior to the World Youth Day, late in the evening, a small group of nine pre-postulants, postulants, novices and newly professed Brothers, invited Bro Emili, Superior General, to join them for supper .

Australians pictured in the group are:

Br Patrick Connell, Ashley Higgins, and Gerald Barklmore,

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## ***Class of 1951 Reunion - First year of St Colman's, Shepparton***



***Left to right: Noel Boschetti, Leo Clurey, Louie D'Amore, Pat Treacy, Brian Noonan,  
Ray McPhee, John Kennedy, Ray Burns, Geoff Dohrman.***

St Colman's, Shepparton (now Notre Dame), held their Diamond Jubilee reunion on the weekend of 20-21st August.

At the 11.00am Mass, Monsignor Peter Jeffrey spoke of the work of the Marist Brothers and how their spirituality of presence at the crib, cross and altar was carried on today.

At the lunch following, Mr Peter Chalkley took up this theme and pointed to the continuing Marist works being carried on in Shepparton through the Remar movement, the McCauley-Champagnat Campus of Notre Dame and through immersion projects.

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# Smile Awhile

## WORKING OUT

An old guy, not in the best of shape, was working out in the gym when he spotted a sweet young thing.



He asked the trainer who was nearby: "What machine in here should I use to impress that sweet thing over there?"

The trainer looked him up and down and said: "I would try the ATM in the lobby."

## BRAIN TRANSPLANT

At the hospital, where a relative lay gravely ill, the relatives gathered in the waiting room.

Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and sombre. "I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, very risky, but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the brain."



The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a time someone asked, "How much will a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded: "\$5,000 for a male brain; \$200 for a female brain." The moment turned awkward.

Some of the men actually had to 'try' not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women.

A man, unable to control his curiosity, finally blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask. "Why is the male brain so much more than the female brain?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group. "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have priced the female brains lower because they've been used."

## ONE LINERS

Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

It's not hard to meet expenses. They're everywhere

An onion can make people cry but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh. ~ Will Rogers

When I come to one of the forks in the road of life, I don't waste time and energy wishing it was a spoon. ~ Miss Piggy

I wish the buck stopped here. I could use a few ...

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

When you're finally holding all the cards, why does everyone else decide to play chess?

If all is not lost, where is it?

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