

MARIST NEWSLETTER



Marist Brothers • Province of Melbourne

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JUBILARIANS OUTSIDE THE MARCELLIN COLLEGE CHAPEL - JULY 12, 2009



**Brothers Nicholas Howlett (50 years), Austin Stevens (70 years),
Kevin Murray (60 years), Ronald Fogarty (75 years),
Stephen Bugg (50 years), Bill Connell (50 years)**

Renewal of Vows

Marcellin College Chapel

July 12, 2009



The spirituality of Marcellin Champagnat and our early Brothers has been handed down to us as a precious heritage.

Made contemporary by each generation, it retains its Marial and apostolic dimensions.

Our task is to incarnate this spirituality in the many cultures and situations in which the Institute finds itself.

Water from the Rock

A Message from our printer - Br Peter Howes

I must apologise to about 20 of the regular Newsletter recipients. I had a major mix-up when printing the envelopes for the July issue which I only discovered when I arrived at the post office to dispatch same, and by that time after sorting into regions, I had no way of knowing who had missed out. Should anyone who didn't receive the July issue be in touch, I'll quite happily run off a copy for inclusion with the September issue.

From our Provincial



3 August 2009

Dear Brothers and Friends,

We have gathered together this month for Solidarity conversations, Funeral Masses and Jubilee Celebrations. Many words have been spoken and written this last month and you will find included in this Newsletter the Eulogy for Hilary Peterson and the Jubilee speeches honouring the long, fruitful and happy lives of Ron Fogarty and Austin Stephens. We also celebrated the Jubilee of Steve Bugg and August 15 has been set down for Richard Spain's celebration.

I have just completed a journey which took me to Central Australia, Cairns, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fiji. So completing the Visitation has been quite a challenge, particularly in the context of the meetings we have been having in preparation for the Chapter and in the operation of the Oceania Region.

Last week representatives met to try to identify the position of this Region on the matter of the structure for the General Council. It will obviously arise at the General Chapter. Hence, we need to speak with a united voice and with the backing of the various Councils. The photo below shows the members who took part.



Pictured from left: **Brs David McDonald, Bill Seldon, Tony Burrows, Ken McDonald, Peter Walsh, Carl Tapp, John Tukano, Peter Horide, Graham Neist, Jeff Crowe, Julian Casey, John McMahon.**

From our Provincial

Following this meeting, I travelled with Carl, Jeff and Ken to Lomeri, Fiji, for the Novitiate Meeting. Dennis Cooper has 12 Novices there (6 in first year and 6 in second year). Whilst there we spoke with Dennis and met the Staff, Bertrand Webster, Chris Maney and Bernie McGrath and we covered all aspects of the Novitiate and the celebrated Vanuatu Independence Day (1980).

This coming month, I am visiting the Community at Thursday Island and East Timor, as well as attending the AMSA Conference in Sydney. John McMahon sets off for the General Chapter late August and will include a visit to Brian Kinsella. I leave a few days later.

There is an annex to this Newsletter. This is the letter from the Oceania Region, compiled by the Delegates after consultation with the Provinces which will be given to each Chapter Delegate. Time has been allocated in the programme for Delegates to read and discuss these letters from across all Regions of the Institute.

There is also an important Statement concerning the appointment of the Interim National Director of Marist Schools Australia and some further information about MSA.

2010 COMMUNITY APPOINTMENTS

The Fitzroy refurbishment has gone to tender and we are not expecting a completion date until March. There will be a couple of Community changes after that point. These will be discussed towards the end of this year. At this stage, I do not envisage ministry changes for 2010.

Fraternally,



Julian Casey
Provincial



**Brothers Patrick Connell and Julian
at the Jubilee celebrations**

3 August 2009

To our Marist Colleagues, Brothers and Lay,

We are happy to announce the appointment of **Brother Michael Green** as the Interim National Director of Marist Schools Australia (MSA) for 3 years from January 2010. Each of us has spoken with Br Michael at length about this appointment and we are confident that he is well-placed to take on the leadership of MSA.

Michael has been a Brother for 35 years and has accepted a number of Province positions over that time. He comes to the position also with a wealth of school leadership experience and many personal talents.

He has been the Principal of Parramatta Marist High in Sydney (1992 - 1996) and St Augustine's College, Cairns, (2002 – 2009). Between 1997 and 2000, he was Director of Education and Welfare Ministries for the Province of Sydney. He has been a member of the Sydney Provincial Council for 15 years, and a member of the Province's Education Commission then Education Council for most of the last 18 years, serving as Chair on a number of occasions. In the late 1990s he was instrumental in the development of AMSA, serving on its initial working party and drafting its Constitution. He has completed post-graduate qualifications in curriculum studies and in religious education. His doctoral research explored the expression of the Marist charism in the organisational culture of Australian Marist schools. In recent years he has led programs in Marist patrimony in Australia and overseas.

We are extremely grateful to Michael for accepting the responsibility of this new inter-province venture.

This appointment really launches Marist Schools Australia (MSA). Our intention to merge the networks of schools in Melbourne and Sydney Provinces was announced early in 2008. A Working Party was established to consult stakeholders and draw up Terms of Reference and Profiles for this body. We are grateful to this group for their work: Mrs Marie Dorrington, Br Michael Green, Br Paul Kane, Mr Peter McNamara (chair), Mr Mark Merry (later replaced by Mr Bernie Boss), Mrs Vicki Tanzer.

As a result of the most recent consultation, we have decided on a staged approach to the creation of MSA. For up to three years, there will be an interim National Director and an Establishment Committee. Their overall brief is to build a spirit of unity and mutual trust across the Marist network, to work on some common formation programs and to continue to develop the principles, policies and operational details of the national structure.

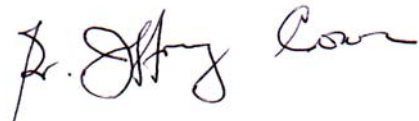
Our intention is that MSA be grounded in the Provinces. We currently have two networks that are working well. We want to build on these. MSA will be integral to our Marist life and mission into the future. It will not be independent of the Provinces. We are not developing a structure like EREA of the Christian Brothers.

There will be many learnings along the way in this interim period. We ask your patience and full co-operation.

We entrust this initiative to Our Good Mother and all our Australian Marist saints whose labour and sacrifice has brought to this happy moment.



Br Julian Casey



Br Jeffrey Crowe

Marist Schools Australia MSA: A work of the Marist Brothers

Why national? Why now?

Marist Schools exist to engage young people in the mission of God to humanity, for each one to fulfil his or her own potential and be an agent of God's transforming love. May St Marcellin inspire all who work in them to sow seeds of hope in the hearts of these young people.

Overall Aims

- To ensure good leadership for Marist Schools in Australia and their creative fidelity to the Marist charism in the 21st century.
- To respond to the call of the Spirit to foster partnership and co-responsibility, "Brothers and lay people together in mission in the Church and in the world".

Current Circumstances

- Both Provinces currently have good governance and animation structures that meet present educational and formational demands.
- Ours is a growing network as more schools become attracted to current formational opportunities to develop Marcellin Champagnat's vision for education and educational leadership.
- The majority of school leaders and animators are Laypeople.
- Both Provinces have developed decision-making structures for Marist Schools that include both Brothers and Lay.
- Delegations of authority to these structures from Provincial Councils are increasing.

- Both Provinces have made a commitment to work by preference in partnership arrangements with other groups such as Dioceses and other religious bodies.
- AMSA exists as a network of Marist Schools.
- The Brothers of both Provinces, and indeed of Oceania, have committed themselves to work as one in imagining and planning for the future of Marist life and mission.

Future needs to be met by the establishment of MSA

- **To ensure the vitality of all Marist Schools** into the future in regard to charism and spirituality by pooling resources from as wide a network as possible.
- **To strengthen the leadership and governance capacity of our network** for the time when the Brothers alone cannot provide this.
 - 40 years ago, there were flourishing Marist schools in Scotland, Belgium, and Germany. Not any more. The schools still exist but with none or minimal connection to the Marist Institute. **We choose a different future.**
 - The two Provinces are at different places in this regard now; but face the same challenge. Now is a good time to act together rather than independently and before other, less advantageous options, are required.

Desired Outcomes

- A structure that is dynamic, contributing to society and Church through creative fidelity to the charism of Marcellin Champagnat.
- A structure that ensures **formation of Marist leaders and staff** and **good governance** into the future in such a way as to honour commitments and to inspire confidence in Schools and Dioceses.
- A structure that respects local autonomy, recognizes the importance of subsidiarity and is **service-oriented**, especially in regard to the provision of **formation opportunities** for the mission of school leaders and staff generally, and for future formators of the whole system.
- A structure that assists the Provincials to continue to fulfil their canonical and legal obligations.
- A structure that positions all Marist Schools well in regard to developments in education, e.g. national initiatives.
- A structure that provides opportunities for people to build a career in Marist Schools.

Responsibilities retained by Provincials and Provincial Councils:

MSA is a work of the Marist Brothers. General responsibility for the animation, leadership and governance of MSA will be delegated to the Board of MSA and the National Director. The Provincials will however retain certain “reserve powers”, including the ownership and legal control of Institute Property, the appointment of members of MSA for a specified time, the approval of the philosophy, mission and goals

of MSA, amending the articles of incorporation of MSA, the approval of the appointment of Principals of schools and Colleges, the approval of capital expenditure over a fixed limit for a College, of loan applications presented by MSA on behalf of schools, and of the MSA budget.

What will you see?

- In the first few years, a lean National Office headed by an Interim National Director and working closely with existing Province Schools Offices, re-branded MSA (Melbourne), MSA (Sydney). An Establishment Committee will be appointed.
- The progressive appearance of operational plans for the national structure, including the appointment of people to executive roles and Council membership with clear statements of responsibilities and delegations.
- Within 3 years, MSA will assume many responsibilities currently delegated by Provincials and Councils to the Province Education Commissions.



Remodelling work continues at the Hermitage, June 2009