



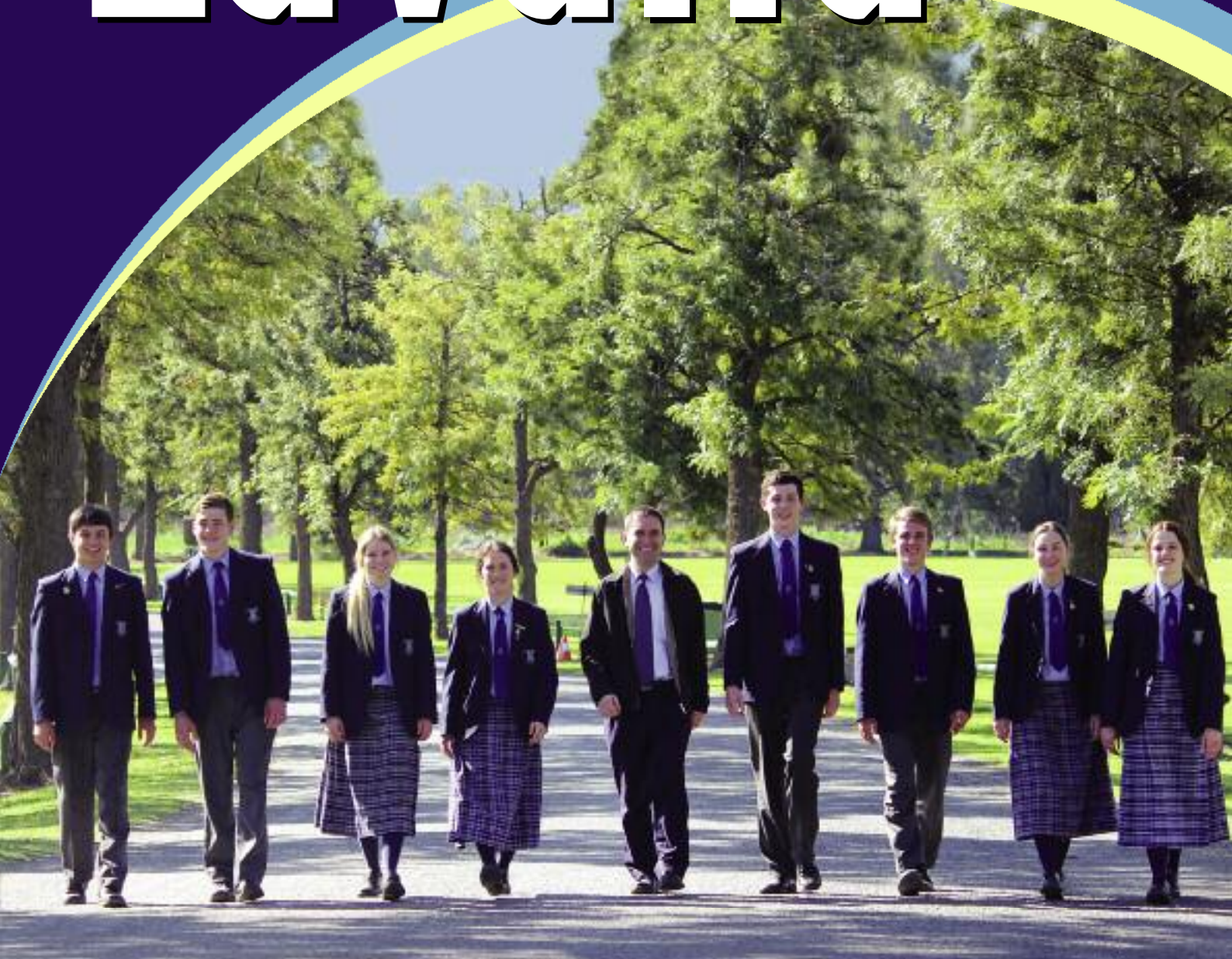
**MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA**  
Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

**The staff journal of  
Marist Schools Australia**

**Volume 20  
Number 1**

**April 2014**

# Lavalla



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#### Lavalla

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Lavalla The name given to this magazine is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first Marist school in 1817. There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

**Cover:** Senior students with their Deputy Principal in the main driveway at Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes. Left to right: Vincent Umers, Kurt Lovett, Illie Hewitt, Jessica Dwyer, Mr Stephen Dwyer, Declan Martin, Toby Nash, Meg Rice, Mireile Marks.



# Editorial



## Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

Twelve months ago, at the time of the drafting the editorial for the first issue of *Lavalla* for 2013, there was a Conclave about to begin. I therefore left a blank space for the name of the yet-to-be-elected Pope, with the intention that the name could be inserted later, just before printing. A year on and the name "Francis" has done immensely more than fill a blank space on a page! It's captured a world's imagination.

The "Francis effect" they are calling it. That description, however, misrepresents both him and the impact that his pastoral leadership is having on the Church. What he is doing and how he is doing it is not essentially about him at all. It's not the Francis effect so much as the Jesus effect. He is doing no more or less than preaching the Gospel. And like his namesake, he is using words only if necessary.

The most candid and often most perceptive of judgements often come from young people. They have built-in antennae for anything that smacks of hypocrisy, unfairness, or irrelevance. Francis displays none of those. He is real. Perhaps that is why young people are warming to him or, more importantly, to his message and his witness. He speaks to what is most authentic and most worthy in them.

Institutions and metanarratives do not find much traction in the post-modern world that our young people inhabit. That can make it difficult for the Church, and the Gospel for which it exists, and even more so when the past crimes of so many people who have purported to act in the name of the Church are being belatedly and shamefully exposed. We therefore need people such as Pope Francis. But, more importantly for the young people whose education and evangelisation have been entrusted to Marist schools in Australia, we need teachers, counsellors, coaches, supervisors, administrators, school officers, nurses, assistants, and other staff in schools, who are, like Francis, the genuine article. We need Marists who are Gospel people.

The new *Marist Association of St Marcellin* to be launched this term will be one way of enhancing that for ourselves and so I invite you to consider joining it, simply to name and claim who you are, with whom you identify, and for why you come to school each morning. It is just that: supporting each other on our way of the Gospel, a way that we know connects so readily with young people. It's putting a face on what we read in *Lavalla* three times a year, and what we make happen each day in our Marist schools.

*Nisi Dominus*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Michael Green'.

**Brother Michael Green FMS  
National Director  
Marist Schools Australia**





# THE JOHN BERNE SCHOOL, LEWISHAM

## The Belvoir Youth Express Program



Belvoir's Youth Express Program aims to engage young people at risk through drama in order to develop their communication skills, self-esteem and social awareness.

The Youth Express program involves participation of two small groups of Year 10 students from John Berne School in a 16 week series of drama workshops during which our students will work with a theatre director from Belvoir to devise their own public performance. Involvement in the program will help provide our students with a forum to explore, express and reflect on their own stories and see the possibility for change.

The John Berne School's first involvement with Belvoir's Youth Express Program began in Term 3, 2013 with a series of drama workshops held at Berne. Eight of our Year 10 students bravely explored the very tough topic of choice and change each Friday under the tutelage and direction of program facilitator, James Winter. The program culminated with the performance of a piece devised and performed by our Year 10 students *The Intervention* – staged at Belvoir's Downstairs Theatre. *The Intervention* explored the theme of addressing one's past in order to change the course of the future.

Program facilitator, James Winter, who is once again working with two groups of our current Year 10 students in 2014, testifies to the significant value of the Youth Express program - the way it "bolsters those who follow through with the program, offering them an enhanced sense of self-belief and allowing them to develop resilience through facing the fear of going on stage in front of a real audience".

Lachlan Contarino



Lachlan Uyeda



Lorenzo Ofria

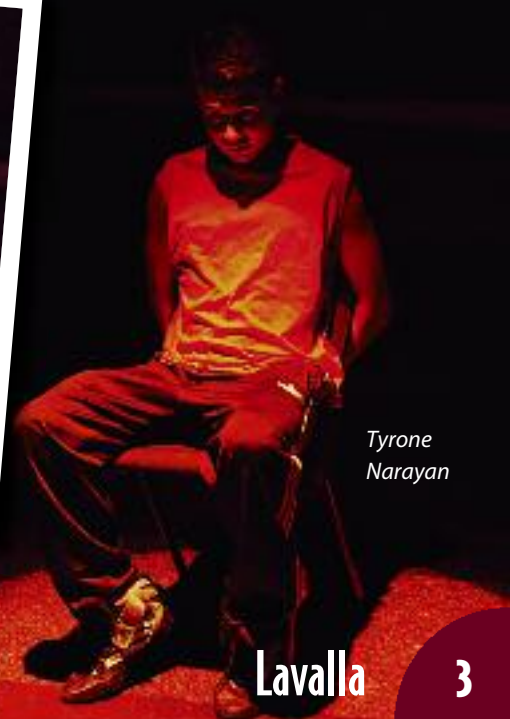
(L to R) Lachlan Contarino, Lorenzo Ofria, Jake Agamemnonos, Luke Baillie, Tyrone Narayan, Lachlan Uyeda, Blake Hunter, Partrick Nalty



Blake Hunter

Luke Baillie and Tyrone Narayan

Tyrone Narayan





## NEWMAN COLLEGE, CHURCHLANDS

# In the Way of Mary at Newman College

Each year at Newman College one of the characteristics of Marist Education is chosen as a school wide focus. This year the characteristic is In the Way of Mary.

The aim is to have members of the school community, male and female, seek to emulate the attributes of Mary's discipleship. These include her faith and courage in the face of confusion and lack of understanding, her perseverance in the face of seemingly overwhelmingly obstacles, her compassion for and nurturing of others.

Certain parts of this focus involve specifically directed activities

as in having Art students present various images of Mary which reflect cultural diversity and which move away from traditional but unrealistic artistic impressions, to those which are more contemporary.

Other activities involve reflecting upon what is currently part of day to day life at the College, particularly in responding to the spirit of St Marcellin, "We give preferential attention to those whose needs are greatest, who are most deprived, or who are going through hard times" In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat #110.



*Images of Mary produced by Teacher (centre image) and Year 11 students*



*Mainstream students interacting with students from our Education Support Centre (Special Education)*





Older students interacting with younger students



Staff nurturing students





# New building construction at St Francis College

Over the last twelve months new building construction has taken place at St Francis College. The Boarders' dining room has received a make-over, the boarding school kitchen is now state of the art with new equipment, the canteen has a new look and we now have the RetrEat cafe for senior students and staff. The new building, the Marcellin Learning Centre is made up of a new library and new learning spaces known as the ARC (Academic Resource Centre). The library is bright, open and provides a flexible learning environment for students and staff. The ARC allows teachers and students to work together. Teachers are no longer the source of all knowledge but are facilitators of learning. Students need to work with the 21st Century skills of collaboration, using information, finding solutions, creativity and global citizenship. The ARC like the library is furnished to allow these skills to flourish for students and teachers.

The Marcellin Learning Centre was officially blessed and opened by Bishop Gerard Hanna, Bishop of the diocese of Wagga Wagga and Mr Michael McCormack, Federal member for Riverina on Friday 7th March 2014. This was a wonderful occasion where the College Community welcomed Brother Greg McCrystal, the last Marist Brother Principal back to the College for the day. It was also a pleasure to have Mr Frank Molloy representing Marist Schools Australia present with us on this special day.



The key to good learning is quality teaching. Teachers at St Francis always strive to deliver quality lessons which engage young people. Modern learning facilities will always help engage students but as we so often hear from the students it is all about the teacher. The teachers who draw their students in with their knowledge and expertise, their care and compassion, high expectations about learning and regular feedback is what students value at the St Francis College.

Learning is always at the centre of all we do at St Francis College. Students are taught about their Catholic Faith and are given opportunities to bring their faith to life. We are always so very proud of how our students work to raise funds to support various Social Justice programs. They live the charisms of our founders St Marcellin Champagnat, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Over the last year students have raised just under \$40,000. Working together in teams the student leaders have excelled in supporting social justice programs.

**Brenda King, Principal**



# WELCOME St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton

We welcome St Francis de Sales Regional College full membership of Marist Schools Australia as from the commencement of 2014. The Sisters of St Joseph from Goulburn and the Marist Brothers from Melbourne pioneered Catholic primary and secondary education in Leeton in the twentieth century. Both religious institutes have since moved from Leeton, but the coeducational college with 750 students including 200 weekly boarders is flourishing. Congratulations to the Principal, Brenda King, the staff, parents, care-givers and students who continue to walk in the footsteps of St Marcellin Champagnat.

The following extract from the Marist Archives recording the first Brothers arriving in Leeton may be of interest to readers...

## From the Archives

The Brothers' House Annals, held in the Templestowe Archives, document the hectic activity that preceded the opening of the Marist Brothers Catholic College, Leeton, NSW, in February 1956.

The preparations included the challenge of stripping and repainting a number of second-hand hospital beds. (117 of these had been bought at auction for £90). ...'The spraying of the beds was a major operation carried out with great singleness of purpose by Br Majella and Br Aquinas .... The moment that the first bed was enamelled blue, a sudden gust of wind raised dust and grass seeds from everywhere and covered the bed. And on the day they were finished, all of them being out in the weather, a sudden thunderstorm brought heavy rain to pit the new enamel terribly....But they looked quite nice in general.'

Despite these and other setbacks, the College opened on 14 February with 140 boys (100 day pupils and 40 boarders). Br Matthew Hopkins was the Principal.

In 1967 St Joseph's Girls' School (run by the Sisters of St Joseph) was located on the same grounds but operated separately.

In 1970 co-education began on a trial basis.

In 1983 the Brothers withdrew, and the Sisters took over the administration of the college for some years prior to their departure.

**Dorothy Weekes, Archivist Melbourne**





# 2014 Inaugural Mass

Archbishop Mark Coleridge,  
Archbishop of Brisbane

Archbishop Mark Coleridge as Chief Celebrant, together with College Chaplain, Fr Jim Hargrave and Priests from surrounding Parishes, joined with the College Community at the Inaugural Mass on Thursday 13 February to dedicate the 2014 academic year. The Senior Student Pledge and investiture of College Leaders during the Mass was particularly poignant in this Marist year of #serve one another. A large bowl of water, blessed by the Archbishop, and bringing to mind Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, was the central motif of the Mass. Each of the Senior students in accepting his badge of leadership then made a sign of the cross with the blessed water.



Archbishop Coleridge and concelebrants at the Inaugural Mass



Headmaster Peter McLoughlin pouring water into the bowl for it to be blessed by Archbishop Coleridge, the blessed water used by Senior students to make the sign of the Cross as part of their pledge and commitment to be of service to the College community in 2014.



2014 College Captain Michael Barbera has his Captain's badge pinned on by proud parents, Connie and John.





# 2014 Champagnat Trust Sport Lunch

*Special guests, left to right: Mr Mark Ella, Mr Matthew Hayden, Mr Eric Rush, Mr Michael O'Loughlin, Mr Peter McLoughlin, Mr Gordon Tallis and Mr John Eales.*

The 10th Champagnat Trust Sport Lunch held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre was another great success. Mr Peter McLoughlin and Mrs Paula McLoughlin, along with Premier Campbell and Mrs Lisa Newman, together with 950 guests enjoyed top class entertainment with all funds raised going to The Champagnat Trust to fund

bursaries at the College. This year there are 38 boys in receipt of part or full bursaries. The College wishes to acknowledge the wonderful support of QBE as our major sponsor of the lunch.

Special guests included Eric Rush, Mark Ella, Michael O'Loughlin, Gordon Tallis, and Matthew Johns along with co-

Patrons of The Champagnat Trust John Eales and Matthew Hayden. All those in attendance enjoyed an afternoon of top class entertainment and look forward to next year's lunch.

A special dinner was held at the College the evening before the lunch with The Champagnat Trust recipients. John Eales, Matthew Hayden and Jenni Smith from QBE joined the Headmaster, Peter McLoughlin for dinner with boys currently on bursaries. The evening was a great success and will be held annually, in line with the Sport Lunch.



*Headmaster Mr Peter McLoughlin, Mrs Paula McLoughlin, Mrs Lisa Newman and Premier Campbell Newman*



*Mr Vince Sorrenti with Champagnat Trust Co-Patron, Mr John Eales*



# India Immersion

28th November – 11th December 2013

At the end of Term 4 2013, the first Trinity Catholic College Lismore India Immersion Team left Brisbane bound for Chennai and New Delhi with the aim of visiting and participating in the ministries of the Presentation Sisters in India.



More than a million people in India are millionaires yet most people live on less than two dollars a day. An estimated 35% of India's population lives below the poverty line and we were to see this contrast for ourselves each day!

After the long trip and a short sleep, we took a two hour bus ride to Morai, a community of 500 poor families who are mostly subsistent farmers. Three young Presentation Sisters staff a school and medical dispensary for the community.

We were unaccustomed to the kind of welcome we received! A bindi ceremony followed by sandwiches, chips and coke, served with a smile in the humble home of the Sisters. Many of the children are the first generation to be educated and the young people we met there stole our hearts as they danced and shared with us.

During our 14-day journey we volunteered with Presentation schools across Chennai and New Delhi, as well as immersing ourselves in the Indian

culture. 'A school within a school' at Sacred Heart Secondary in Chennai, the Tamil School, caters for 800 Tamil students, many of whom would otherwise not receive an education. These young people and families live in poverty, often on the fringes of society. As well as receiving an education we saw firsthand how they are being given hope for a brighter future through education.

Traditional and local delicacies quickly became favorites amongst the group







and Naan was a necessity at every meal! We visited markets, temples, cultural museums, and renowned monuments such as the Jama Masjid (mosque) and Red Fort in Delhi. We enjoyed a rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk, a main marketplace in Delhi. We visited the Gandhi Museum and the Raj Ghat in Delhi- the final resting place of Mahatma Gandhi.

Poverty is an ever present reality in India and challenges us to respond with generosity and compassion, as Nano would have done. We were pleased to donate to the Winter Appeal after attending Mass in New Delhi. We had been fundraising for some months and left donations in each of the schools we visited, totalling \$1500. These were most graciously received and we could not depart from any place quietly!

We returned home with a new appreciation of our homeland and all that we enjoy. The satisfaction of knowing we have made a small difference in these young people's lives is carried in the hearts of all of us.

**Written by Ella Swain, Allison Bing and Sister Mary Bruggy PBVM**

**INDIA IMMERSION TEAM:** Allison Bing, Charlotte Borthwick, Meghan Correy, Ella Fitzalan, Natalie Foster, Bridget Mulholland, Amy Murphy, Rebecca Pearce, Isobel Robinson, Ella Swain, Nikita Wu.

**Staff:** Mrs Clare Axman, Mr Rob Lynch, Ms Suzette Mackney and Sister Mary Bruggy pbvm

**SOME COMMENTS ABOUT IMMERSION**

*"The experience of Immersion to India has been incredibly life changing for me, with the smiles on the children's faces that we*

*visited something that I will never forget and which I will always remember fondly. It has changed my outlook on my life, making me consider how truly grateful we all should be for our lives every day." ... Meg*

*Images of beautiful smiling faces will forever stay with me... Suzette*

*An Immersion to India is a life changing experience... Charlotte*

*The best thing about our Immersion to India was being able to experience such a diverse and beautiful culture along with a supportive team of staff and students! ... Isobel*





# MARIST VOCATIONS MINISTRY

## The 'Good Soil' of our Marist Schools ...

Pope Francis' address to mark this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations (May 11), reminds us of a home-grown lesson all farmers know; cultivation and constant nourishing produce a good harvest. *"A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service ... No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love."* (Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2014)

*"A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love."*  
– Pope Francis

Affirming St Paul's exhortation; 'You are God's field!' (1 Cor 3:9), Pope Francis reminds us that while God sows and inspires the hearts of the young, vocations are grown and nurtured in the good soil of supportive and faith-filled environments.

In visiting schools across the MSA network, Br Doug Walsh and myself are amazed at the 'good soil' in which young people are being educated and formed, to be the generous men and women of tomorrow. We're also delighted with the wonderful welcome and hospitality we receive as principals, staff and students welcome us into their unique Marist community.



## Marist Life Mentors – tilling the Soil!

I truly believe our Marist schools remain one of the privileged places where students can be affirmed and supported in asking vocational questions. Along with our presentations to year groups, the Vocations Team has conducted the Marist Life Mentor workshop with 76 staff in 12 MSA Schools. This program enables staff to confidently accompany senior students in their ongoing faith lives at school, while inviting them to consider future vocational pathways, as young Lay Marists, Consecrated Religious and Priests.

May God's grace continue to stir the vocational aspirations of young people in the soil of our Australian Marist Community and may we each be conscious of the gift and responsibility we have been given as tillers in the Lord's field!

**Brother Greg McDonald, fms.**  
**Director of Vocations**

## School Visits during Term 1



Assumption College Kilmore

Mt Maria College Mitchelton

Marist College  
North Shore





## Marist Life Mentors Workshops



Marist College Ashgrove



Red Bend College Forbes



Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood



Red Bend Catholic College Forbes

## Healy House Opens at Eastwood

Healy House, the new Marist House of Discernment for young men has opened in Eastwood, Sydney. This is a residential place of discernment for young men aged 20-35 wishing to explore their vocation to religious life while maintaining their current employment or student status. Residents might be studying at University, TAFE or employed in a full-time or part-time capacity. The Discernment Program supports them by providing an environment conducive to prayer, community and pastoral activity. The Director of Vocations co-ordinates the program and lives with the residents.

Know a young person who might be interested? For further information, contact Br Greg McDonald.  
 emai: [greg.mcdonald@marists.org.au](mailto:greg.mcdonald@marists.org.au)



Healy House)



Marist College Ashgrove



St Joseph's College Hunters Hill



# Blessing and Opening of the New Boarding House



*Principal Michael Kenny thanking everyone for attending and inviting them to look through the new houses at the end of the ceremony.*

Br Michael Green, National Director of Marist Schools Australia, officially opened the three new boarding houses at Assumption College Kilmore on Sunday, March 30.

Beforehand, former boarder, Fr Michael Kelly CSsR, with assistance from Director of Boarding Jeremy Holt and Boarding Captains, Jesse Soulsby and Rochelle Shannon, blessed the houses.

They are named Redden, after Br Austin

Redden, the previous registrar and a learning enhancement teacher at the College; Mannes, after Gertrude Mannes, the first female teacher at ACK who taught here for more than 30 years and who was the sister of Br Sylvester Mannes, a former Assumption principal; and O'Connor, after Eamonn O'Connor, a boarder from the class of 2011 and Captain of the First XVIII, who died last year.

Members of the O'Connor family attended the ceremony along with Mr Paul Herrick, Regional Director of Marist Schools Australia; Marist Brothers; staff, students, parents and many alumni including Damian Drum, Victorian Minister for Sports and Veterans Affairs.

During his address, Br Michael spoke about the importance of "family spirit" in

Marist education. "This is the style of boarding program that Marcellin would have wonderfully applauded because it's human in its scale ...it creates family," he said.

There is space for 24 boarders in each house with a mixture of single, double and quad spaces. Each student has a wardrobe, a personal desk and Wi-Fi access. There is also accommodation for supervisors and their families.

Principal Michael Kenny said that it was "with genuine excitement" that he stood in front of the magnificent new boarding houses "which will provide a home away from home for rural students for many years to come".

**Stephen Calvert**







*Br Michael Green, assisted by Registrar Bernard Jephson, unveiling the plaque for O'Connor House.*



*Those gathered for the ceremony watch as Br Michael unveils the plaque for Redden House.*



*Fr Michael preparing to bless the boarding houses with the help of the Boarding Captains Rochelle Shannon and Jesse Soulsby and Director of Boarding Jeremy Holt. At the left is an image of Miss Gertrude Mannes.*



*Boarding staff and students, Br Michael Green and Principal Michael Kenny (recovering from knee surgery) in front of Mannes House.*



# RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE, FORBES

## New facilities opened

On Monday 7 April Red Bend Catholic College celebrated the Official Opening and Blessing of its new Hospitality Trade Training Centre & Technology Applied Studies Centre. The facilities were officially opened and blessed by Hon John Cobb MP, Federal Member for Calare and Bishop Michael Kennedy DD, Apostolic Administrator of the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese. These projects took around 18 months to complete and funding was received from the Australian Government in order to realise the facilities. The opening was well attended and guests included our National Director Br Michael Green and Sydney Regional Director, Mr Frank Malloy and members of the Catholic Education Commission NSW, local government, parish clergy and the architect and builders. Official guests were treated to a 2 course lunch prepared and served by senior Hospitality students and a tour of the facilities following the official ceremony,



Left: Hon John Cobb MP with students Danica Bartholomaeus and Illie Hewitt (School Captain)

which was attended by the whole school. The buildings were blessed and student leaders led the assembly in prayer. Br John Hilet, former Principal, and now Principal of Trinity College Lismore spoke about his time at RBCC during the planning of these facilities. It was a wonderful celebration of Marist

community and the official ceremony closed with prayer in the newly refurbished and renamed Chapel of Mary: Our Good Mother. The College is now entering another phase of development in its learning facilities with the construction of a new multi-purpose hall including Sporting, Drama and Music facilities. This project will be completed in 2015.



New Technology Applied Studies Centre



## School Leaders



2014 Student Leaders. Front Row: School Captains Illie Hewitt and Kurt Lovett with Br Michael, Principal and Stephen Dwyer, Deputy Principal. Back rows: Boarding Captains, House Captains and Liturgy Captains. Kurt Lovett has recently been selected as a member of the Australian Youth Olympic Hockey Team.

## Cattle Team

The College Cattle Team preparing to compete at the Royal Canberra and Royal Sydney Shows.



## New Staff



New teaching staff to Red Bend Catholic College in 2014. Front from left: Penny Hewett, Christina Whitehead, Louise Brown. Back from left: Alan Blyth, James Dumas, Peter Nowland, Matthew Lee.

## Indigenous Dancers



Indigenous Dance group performing at the National Multicultural Festival in Canberra.





## MSol's Christmas Season of Solidarity flows into Lent

Following the Christmas gatherings with supporters of Marist Solidarity across Australia support continues to grow for the people of Asia and the Pacific.

Last year's Christmas gatherings in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney have made a significant impact on the connection that Australian Marists feel to the broader international Marist mission. As MSol staff visited the various regions we have heard time and time again that it is wonderful to hear of, and be able to support, Marists on an international scale.

This energy has flowed on into 2014 with great strength and, now coming to the end of Lent, the growth in support from Marists around Australia is obvious. Since the first of the Christmas gatherings started late November last year supporters of MSol have ensured the progress of each of the Christmas Appeal projects into 2014.

As public support builds for these projects, students in the Marist Schools Australia network have begun to support the 2014 Marist Solidarity Campaign. This year's theme resonates with the heart of MSol's work and the reason behind the work that St Marcellin Champagnat continues to inspire. A number of the schools will also raise awareness and support around Champagnat Day, the Feast of the Assumption or at other stages throughout the year.

Having met with a number of impressive Social Justice Captains in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane the MSol team is excited about the creativity and passion with which they inspire great generosity

each year. They are a credit to the international community of Marists.

Our partners in Asia and the Pacific continue to express their gratitude for the support that is provided throughout each year, which is sustained by the creative passion of Australian donors and fundraisers, young and old. The MSol team is committed to this life changing work and to bringing like minds together in support of each other; minds that see the need for a change in the world and wish to do something about it.

**MSol Team  
BRISBANE**



# Supporting Water Security for School Children at P.Udayupatti, India

Recently MSol received a request from the Marist Brothers primary and secondary school at P.Udayupatti in Southern India. This year they celebrate their 25th anniversary and need support for the digging of a new bore and the purchase and installation of a new bore pump motor.

The schools are located on the outskirts of Tiruchirappalli, know by the locals as Trichy, in Southern Tamil Nadu State. The school was built 25 years ago in a dry rural village where the yearly rainfall is much less than the city of Trichy itself. During the last two years the monsoon has failed to produce adequate rainfall.

In the first three months of 2014 alone the rainfall is already 32% below average.

The original 25 year old bore well on the school property is now drying out and the school is struggling for water that is safe for drinking, preparing meals, washing and for basic hygiene needs such as toilets.

In 2014 the 1515 students attending the secondary and primary schools and the staff of the schools will benefit from a deeper and more reliable well.

**Br Brian Kinsella, Project Coordinator**



If you wish to support this project please contact us:

EMAIL | [msol@marists.org.au](mailto:msol@marists.org.au) PHONE | (07) 3354 0600

# ABC Radio Reporter, Amy McCosker, reflects, Cambodia

The LaValla School in Cambodia recently hosted MVA volunteers Annelese & Amy McCosker. Amy, school captain of Marist College Emerald in 2006 now ABC Radio rural reporter, has blogged about her time in LaValla. In an interview, Marist Solidarity Cambodia's Director, Mr Nimul Ouch, explains the effect of strong Buddhist beliefs upon people with a disability.

"Buddhists believe in 'karma'", Nimul says. "So they will say, 'you do good in the past life, you will receive good in this life'. 'People with disability - in our culture - is the result of bad action in the past life.

"When people see them [people with a disability], they ignore [them]... I have been faced with this myself, I have one

arm shorter than the other arm, at school no one was interested in coming to say hello to me."

Amy's experience provides a real insight into the resilience of the children of the LaValla School. To read more about Amy's experience and her interviews with LaValla students go to her ABC profile: <https://open.abc.net.au/people/amy-mccosker-31ci0hh>

**Ashley Bulgarelli, MVA Coordinator**



For more info on Marist volunteering opportunities:

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Contact us to join our network of supporters that make education possible in Asia and the Pacific.

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## MARIST COLLEGE CANBERRA

# Ex-student now playing in the NBA

**Pat Mills, proud ex-student of Marist College Canberra, now playing in the NBA for the San Antonio Spurs.**

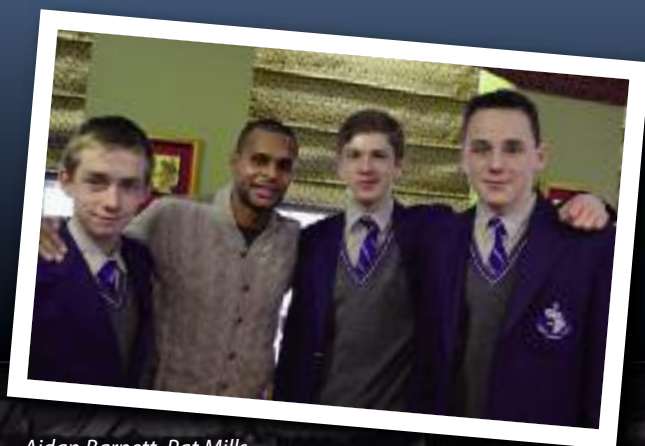
Pat Mills attended Marist College Canberra from Years 7-11 before taking up a basketball scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport. From 2007 to 2009, he attended St Mary's College in California, USA, and soon gained the attention of the National Basketball Association (NBA). In 2009, he commenced playing with the Portland Trail Blazers and subsequently three other teams in the USA, Australia and China before joining the San Antonio Spurs in 2012.

On Tuesday 20 August 2013, Marist College Canberra played host to Old Boy Pat Mills, his coach and members of his family where he was presented with Full College Colours, the highest accolade of the College. Pat was delighted to meet staff, members of the current crop of Marist Basketballers as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 4-12.

The inaugural Marist College Canberra USA Basketball was held in December- January this year. Two Marist Basketball teams were involved and played in the 25th Annual Bank of Carolina's JV Tournament. The first team finished in third position overall

with James Toohey collecting all-tournament honours and most valued player.

The Marist boys were also Pat Mills' guests in San Antonio whilst on their basketball tour. Pat invited them to attend a Spurs training session and they were VIP guests at the local Texan derby between the Spurs and the Dallas Mavericks.



*Aidan Barnett, Pat Mills,  
Nick Cubit and Patrick Cross*



*James Toohey, Pat Mills and his  
niece, and Jack Bartholomeusz*



# Decade of Dominance

At the recent Metropolitan Catholic Schools Swimming Championships held at the Homebush Aquatic Centre, Marist College Eastwood secured their tenth straight championship with a dominant performance against the other eleven MCS schools. Such was their performance that a comparison with last year's results showed that in 2013, the college was only 7 points ahead leading into the relays whereas this year, they were 100 points ahead at the same stage. We were placed 1st in 5 relays including breaking the U/17 Medley Relay record (Kai Glennie, Christopher Molloy, Liam Wood and Bryce Ko who smashed the record by 4 seconds) and the U/14 Freestyle relay equalled the record (Brandon Dahdah, James Betpeara, Aaron Han and Greg Yiasemedies). We placed 2nd in 8 relays and 3rd in 1 relay.



This year they won all the silverware on offer, the Junior, Senior and the Overall Championship shields to cement the college's place in MCS swimming history.

The standout performances in an otherwise outstanding team effort saw a number of records broken and they had 2 individual record breakers break 4 records:

Kai Glennie in the 17+ yrs 100 Butterfly and 100 Backstroke (both of which he can swim next year) and Justin van Hulsen-Akouri in the 15-16 yrs 100 Breastroke (which he can swim in next year) and 15 Yrs 50 Breastroke (a record that had stood since 1991)

Kiyah Spinetti (U/12's) Justin van Hulsen-Akouri (U/15's) and Kai Glennie (U/17's) were all runner up age champions in their

respective age groups.

12 students have now qualified for the next level, the NSW Combined Catholic Schools Championships:

Aaron Han, Justin van-Hulsen Akouri, Liam Wood, Kai Glennie, Greg Yiasemedies for individual events. James Betpeara, Brandon Dahdah, Christopher Molloy, Bryce Ko, Alex Wahbe, Connor Blaxall, Nicholas Harris all go through for their respective relays.

Swim coach Nathan Breen, and Principal Daniel Delmage praised the squad indicating that the success of the swimming team epitomizes the effort staff at the college put in and this culture has been built up over the years and shows how students respond when given such opportunities.





# Visit to East Timor

## Alternative Schoolies Immersion Trip 1st – 11th December 2013

The Immersion to Timor Leste was the first time that Marist-Sion College had been involved in such a program organised and operated through Catholic Mission and in conjunction with St Francis Xavier College Beaconsfield . Our College had 5 participants – 3 Year 12 students Erin Farrell, Alex Kubale and Lydia Fox and two staff members Marian Kee and Fiona MacRae.

On arrival in Dili, we were overwhelmed by the humidity and heat. We were met

by our two drivers Emile and Emilio who made our group complete with 14 people. Our first stay over in Dili was at the Dominican Orphanage at Bidau where we were met by the dedicated and generous Sisters and beautiful children. The three nights at the Orphanage were an amazing and, at times, overwhelming experience of joy and love, witnessing their simple and faith filled lives. Our students spent time playing with the children, teaching them

and sharing two trips to the beach for a swim.

Leaving the Orphanage was a sad time as the Sisters and the orphans surprised us by singing a farewell song for us 'I had a dream' and presenting us with traditional Tais scarves.

From Dili we travelled East to rural villages and visited the Comoro Kindergarten, Ahisaun Foundation, a house for young people with physical







disabilities, St Damien's Leprosy Clinic and the Ponta Leste Youth Centre and we visited markets. We stayed in Bacau and met up with two Marist Brothers Br. Fons Van Rooj who is the Director of the Marist Teachers College in Bacau and Br Tony Clarke who works with formation of brothers and immersions.

Our final days were spent in Balibo where we visited the memorial for the five journalists who were killed in Balibo.

We also visited the fort, the many significant buildings and sites that were places of significance in the Indonesian invasion of Timor Leste. We also visited a health clinic and spent time with Leanne, a Welsh Palms volunteer from Australia, who lived in the Balibo Convent where we stayed. The people of Timor Leste are friendly, warm and welcoming. They have so little yet they are very generous.

**Marian Kee**





# Faith Formators Propose Directions

Fifty Faith Formators from Marist Schools across Australia gathered recently to reflect on the specific role of Faith Formators in Marist Schools today. The Colloquium was held at the Hermitage in Mittagong from the 23rd to 25th March, 2014. Keynote speakers were Kate Fogarty, Fr Chris Gleeson, Br Michael Green, Fr Rob Galea, Gail Coates, Br Graham Neist and Br Peter Carroll. Carole Wark and other members of the Mission and Life Formation Team, facilitated the program.

Tony Clarke, National Director of the Team began the program on the opening night by asking 'What are the edges for Faith Formators that we need to address over the next four years? Kate Fogarty, the first of the keynote speakers, suggested that amidst the struggle for competing agendas, the role of the Faith Formator is 'to create space for God to be God with this people, in this place, at this time'.

Fr Chris Gleeson reminded us of Paul Tillich's insight 'he who knows about depth, knows about God'. Armed with this knowledge, Chris invited Faith Formators to go with Jesus to the peripheries. Our approach can involve us in being 'grace namers', highlighting where the 'signature' of Jesus is evident.

Br Michael Green stressed, that while evangelisation is in our Marist DNA, we still need to ask 'What would Mary do?' He encouraged us to be mystics and prophets – a mystic being someone who comes into touch with the mind and heart of God and a prophet someone who brings that mind and heart to the world.

Fr Rob Galea, through his singing, reminded us that music transcends the mind. He invited us to commit to liturgy, to know what it is about, how it connects with our lives and to expect a 'God encounter' whenever we participate. He recalled the well known truth that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. As a priest, he strives to be authentically present to others, to prepare well for his prayer and to embrace silence.

Gail Coates and Br Graham Neist informed the Faith Formators about the emerging Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat. This will provide an opportunity for Marists, brothers and lay, to be co-responsible for the future life and mission of the Marist Institute.

Br Peter Carroll concluded the keynote addresses by highlighting the importance of our being witnesses to our faith. The observation attributed to St Francis of Assisi: 'Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words' summarised Peter's sentiments.

Throughout the colloquium, participants drew strength from each other, from the availability of Marist programs and from their own prayer lives. They agreed on the importance of being genuine and authentic people and of remembering that evangelisation takes place in relationship. A very rich colloquium concluded in communal prayer.



*National Marist Faith Formators Colloquium 2014*





Footsteps I –  
Making Jesus Christ  
Known and Loved  
The Hermitage Mittagong  
16-19 March 2014





## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, HUNTERS HILL

# Joeys ensures Australia's farmers 'Never Walk Alone'

Students at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, are encouraging schools to get behind Australia's struggling farmers after they donated two full vans of food to be distributed to families in need.

Led by Year 12 students, the boys at the college donated non-perishable food items to Australian charity Aussie Helpers, who will distribute it to farming families experiencing hardship.

The donation was inspired by the college's strong links to families from

rural and regional Australia, which date back to its foundation in 1881.

Year 12 student, 17-year-old Maxwell Knight, is from a property near Wee Waa in northwest NSW, a region that is drought declared. His family owns a cotton farm and he spoke to the boys and staff at the college about the hardships involved in living on the land during a drought. "Like the rest of the community the drought is really taking its toll," he said. "But farmers continue to

battle on, working harder than ever in tough conditions."

Fellow Year 12 student, 17-year-old Jonathan Chow from Randwick, spoke about the special connection the city boys share with the country students and called on the Joeys community to support farming families.

Maxwell and Jonathan are now visiting other schools around Sydney and encouraging them to get behind Australia's farmers through Aussie Helpers.



Students from St Joseph's College with donations for farming families.

## St Joseph's College Hunters Hill Mothers April 2014 Retreat

Another group of Mums with lads at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill gathered for 3 days April 1-3, at The Hermitage, Mittagong for some time-out and reflection, with good cheer and great company to boot!

Learning more about Saint Marcellin and our Marist story were an added bonus. Many thanks from all the Mums to Brother Robert O'Connor for leading us through these days.



Elly Murphy and Margaret Bryce



The SJC Mums at The Hermitage Mittagong April 2014





*Mr Caesar Forcadela accepting the Malmo award on behalf of Victor Forcadela. Presented by Mrs Margot Malmo-Carruthers*

## CATHOLIC COLLEGE SALE Prestigious Scholarship

Victor Forcadela has recently been awarded the 2013 Memorial Malmo Scholarship for academic achievement and general excellence.

The Malmo Scholarship is open to Year 11 students throughout the district and is in memory of the late Sigurd Malmo, a local veterinarian, who died tragically as the result of a car accident.

Students were nominated by their schools and asked to submit an application, followed by a lengthy interview process.

Mr Malmo's daughter, Margot Malmo-Carruthers presented the scholarship at a College assembly this week. Victor was attending a school excursion on the day so the award was accepted by his father Mr Caesar Forcadela. Mrs Malmo-Carruthers congratulated Victor on his presentation at the interview "Victor is a very worthy winner of the award and is an excellent ambassador for the school." she said.

## Bishop-elect Columba Macbeth-Green

Former Marist student...

Fr. Macbeth-Green is currently the Vicar Provincial in Australia of the Order of Saint Paul the First Hermit (Pauline Fathers) and Rector of the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Marian Valley, Canungra, Queensland. He has also been the Police Chaplain for the South Eastern Region, Queensland since 2011.

It has recently been announced that Fr Macbeth-Green has been appointed seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. Red Bend Catholic College is proud that Fr Columba is an ex-student of the College, having attended here from 1980 to 1985. The whole community of Red Bend Catholic College wish Fr Columba every happiness and success in his new role.



*Br Robert O'Connor Province Spiritual Director/Consultant*

## Parents Retreat: A Possibility for your School?

We all know how busy parents are and how generously they engage in our schools and ministries at so many levels.

Recent experience at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill would suggest there is also a great openness in parents to taking a little time out for reflection and prayer.

The wonderful initiative of one mother Maggs Thompsett, in 2013 saw an enthusiastic group of some 30 or more Mums come together at The Hermitage Mittagong for 2 days of learning more about our Marist story and Saint Marcellin; for some reflection and prayer.

2014 has seen this initiative blossom into 2 such experiences! There is planning afoot for something similar for the Dads.

Maybe a possibility at your place?





## MARIST | SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Catholic education in the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat

### Archdiocese of Adelaide

Marcellin Technical College, Christies Downs  
Sacred Heart College, Somerton Park  
Sacred Heart College Middle School, Mitchell Park

### Archdiocese of Brisbane

Marist College, Ashgrove  
Mount Maria College, Mitchelton  
Mt Maria College, Petrie  
St Joseph's School, Murgon  
St Peter Claver College, Riverview  
St Teresa's College, Noosaville  
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach  
Trinity College, Beenleigh

### Diocese of Darwin

Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College,  
Alice Springs

### Archdiocese of Melbourne

Assumption College, Kilmore  
Marcellin College, Bulleen

### Archdiocese of Perth

Newman College, Churchlands  
St Joseph's School, Northam

### Archdiocese of Sydney

Marcellin College, Randwick  
Marist College, Eastwood

Marist College, Kogarah  
Marist College, North Shore  
Marist College, Pagewood  
Marist College, Penshurst  
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill  
St Michael's School, Daceyville  
The John Berne School, Lewisham  
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park

### Diocese of Bunbury

Bunbury Catholic College

### Diocese of Cairns

St Augustine's College, Cairns

### Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn

Marist College, Canberra

### Diocese of Lismore

St Mary's Catholic College, Casino  
Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

### Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton  
St Peter's Campus (All Saints College)  
Maitland

### Diocese of Parramatta

Parramatta Marist High School,  
Westmead  
St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

### Diocese of Rockhampton

Chanel College, Gladstone  
Marist College, Emerald

### Diocese of Sale

Catholic College, Sale  
Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon  
Marist-Sion College, Warragul

### Diocese of Sandhurst

Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta  
Marist College, Bendigo  
Notre Dame College, Shepparton

### Diocese of Townsville

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr  
St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

### Diocese of Wagga Wagga

St Francis de Sales College, Leeton

### Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes

### Diocese of Wollongong

John Therry High School, Rosemeadow  
Mount Carmel High School, Varroville  
St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

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