



Marist Fathers Australian Province

Provincial Circular

No 1 - Feb 2019

From the Provincial

Brothers,

A month or two ago, a journalist in one of the dailies criticized Australian culture for being "ageist": the disappearance of the elderly from public life was robbing society of the many gifts older people have to offer.

Well, the members of the Extraordinary Chapter of 2018 were definitely not ageist. I feel a bit like St Paul, as one born out of time. At no time was I expecting to be elected to the provincial leadership so late in life.

However, I take up my role in peace, relying on the grace of God, the guidance of our First and Perpetual Superior and your fellowship, support and cooperation.

Mary's work

I have hope that I can assist in the mission that remains us, as it has to be exercised according to both our personal and corporate strengths and the constrained circumstances and stretched resources of today.

Yet as religious we are still called in our littleness to do Mary's Work bringing the Word to flesh in our world. Our vessels may be very earthen but we still carry a treasure for the world.

This call was expressed in the 2017 General Chapter: Like Mary, we are called to be missionary disciples, bridge builders, instruments of reconciliation, bearers of the Good News....."

The chapters of 2016 and 2018 have set out the tasks for the provincial:

- Investigation of alternative models of governance.
- Initiation of processes for new government structures.
- Advancement of care for aged and infirm.
- Care for the corporal and spiritual well-being of each member.
- Care for the mission and review of ministries.
- To connect and unite the members of the province.

I will attempt to do my best with my own limitations with God's grace and your input and cooperation.

Entrusted to all

These tasks are not only for the provincial administration, they are entrusted to all of us. We can do them with mutual concern and commitment.

Each of the above if we carry them out cooperatively will be challenging and if embraced will have consequences for each of us: long held opinions and positions may have to be challenged, demands made, expectations pruned.

Bonds of unity

Above all, my prime task as leader is to connect and unite as Constitution 206 instructs the provincial superior: "strengthen the bonds of unity within the province". I have been advised many times recently that I need to listen. For this reason, my intention to visit as many members of the province I can in the first half of this year.

But connecting and uniting is a task for each one. Connection and union will be the outcome of our giving our full attention to each of our brothers. Giving our full attention requires that we put aside prejudices, past hurts, it asks that we be open to each other, giving of ourselves.

My brothers, leadership cannot be exercised if it is not enabled by the group. Enable me! Be my support and inspiration. Be truthful and open with me – give me your criticism when it is called for but also offer solutions with the same breath!

Pray for me.

Tony Corcoran



Provincial Diary

19 March

Provincial Council Meeting

23 March

Marist Sisters Woolwich
Community Farewell

22 April

Novena to St Peter Chanel
commences

1 May

Marist Mission Centre Anniversary
Function

21 May

Provincial Council Meeting

Provincial Council

At its meetings in January and February the Provincial Council:

Considered priority tasks for the Provincial Administration in 2019. The following areas were identified as requiring attention:

- Restructuring (both for the Province, and within the Provincial Administration)
- Aged Care
- Safeguarding
- Connecting and Uniting – visitation
- Vocations – should we continue to accept them?
- Review of Apostolic Commitments/Prioritized Ministries
- Finances and Properties
- Preparation for 2020 Chapter
- Facing the reality of the Province's dying.

Workshopped a document setting out responses to the Age Care Review

Discussed future management of the total Hunters Hill site with particular reference to the situation of Villa Maria.

Appointments

Brian Wilson appointed vice-superior of Villa Maria community for a period of three years as from 1/1/2019

Ray Chapman appointed by the Superior General as Director of the 2020 Colnian Renewal

Personnel

Pius Jones: Pius will be taking up a new appointment this year, at St Brendan's College, Yeppoon, which is east of Rockhampton, on the coast.

Fred Kado: Fred will be completing his service to the Province on 15 March when he leaves St Patrick's to do two months of fundraising in the United States for the Missions, and then commences a period of sabbatical/renewal focusing on the East Asia Pastoral Institute in Manila.

He returns to his home Province just after Christmas.

The gratitude of the Province is extended to Fred for his 8 years of ministry in Australia, firstly at Burnie, and more recently at St Patrick's.

Gerry Arbuckle: has recently made



the move from Villa Maria to Montbel. The phone number for his room in Montbel is 02 9844 2270.

Aliki Langi: has uncovered new talent in Holy Name of Mary parish following the launching of his ukulele group, which gathers for practice on Thursday evenings. About 12 dedicated souls are learning the ropes....plunk...plunk...ping. Later in the year Aliki will host members of his Gladstone ukulele group on a visit to Sydney.

Bob Barber left Sydney on 15 February bound for the Seven Fountains Jesuit retreat centre at Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he has commenced a 30-day retreat.

A 2019 appointment is looming.

Tony Kennedy: Tony reports from Rome that he will be travelling to Cameroon from 9 March to visit the District formation house in Yaoundé, and in early June he will be in Washington for a formation conference.

He will be back in Australia for holidays in late June and returning to Rome on 8 August.

News

Kevin Gadd, a former member of the Province, will be ordained to the diaconate on 27 April at Our Lady of Victories, Shortland (Newcastle), commencing 10am.

Kevin Bates travelled to Geelong for the opening Mass at St Joseph's College, Geelong.

The school website tells the story: We are delighted to welcome Bishop Mark Edwards as principal celebrant. Bishop Mark will be joined by Fr Kevin Bates as concelebrant. As part of the Mass we will formally open and bless our newest building; the Peter Chanel Centre.

Fr Kevin was a foundation student of Chanel and we are privileged to have him involved in the opening. It is fitting that the name of St Peter

Sick

Chris Austin: at the time of going to print, Chris remains a patient in Royal North Shore Hospital

John Thornhill was admitted to Ryde Hospital on 24 February with stomach pain and a possible bowel obstruction and was operated on for a bowel obstruction on February 26.

John Gillen had cataract surgery in Brisbane on February 25, with a follow up for the other eye scheduled for March 5.

John was happy to report that the first operation was successful.



Deaths

Fr Jan Snijders sm, d.13.12.2018, Hulst, Holland (*pictured below*)



Fr Rudolf Wenk sm, d.5.2.2019, Meppen, Germany

Fr David Mullins, d.24.12.2018, New Zealand

Fr Yves Piton, d.24.12.2018, France

Fr Frans Kuypers, d. 26.12.2018, Holland

Fr Michael Fitzgerald, d.11.02.2019, Suva, Fiji. (*pictured below*)



Fr Pierre Vignal, d.16.2.2019, Brignoles, France.

Stella (Ketsore), Chris' sister, died at Buka 28 January and buried 29 January.

Geoff Deegan, taught at the Aquinas Academy and an occasional lecturer at the seminary at Toongabbie, died 2 February 2019

Chanel continues as part of Catholic boys' education in Geelong, in recognition of the role of Chanel College between 1958 and 1999. Chanel College was situated at Bell Park and later at Lovely Banks overlooking Geelong.

It was initially conducted by the Marist Fathers and, after 1970, by the Christian Brothers. Geelong Baptist College currently continues the tradition of providing education on the Chanel site.

Following its closure in 1999 many Chanel students came to St Joseph's. Our Peter Chanel Centre contains state-of-the-art contemporary teaching spaces to support project based learning, along with science teaching spaces and excellent music facilities.

Kev reports that during the opening ceremony reference was made to Kev's brother, Phil, who taught at St Joseph's prior to his death some years ago.

Provincial Handover: on the evening of Friday 1 February, the transition in Provincial leadership was marked with a liturgical ceremony in the Montbel chapel, followed by a convivial meal.

The Vicar Provincial thanked Bob Barber for his 6 years as Provincial, and Bob responded with a word of thanks to members of the Province and reflected on his time in leadership.

As happens these days, the lights went out fairly early, but it was nevertheless an enjoyable evening.

Congratulations to Kevin Bates and Paul Pidcock who each received an Order of Australia award on January 26.

A Lightning Strike near our Hunters Hill property just prior to Christmas disabled a number of phones at Villa Maria and Maryvale/Montbel. Another storm a few weeks ago took out internet and email connections as well. The phone connections have been restored, but Maryvale/Montbel are still experiencing problems with email and internet connections.

Publications

John Thornhill, *The Road All Peoples Travel*, John Thornhill, Sydney, 2018. Reprint of original 2009 edition. Advertising

Retreats: each member of the Province should have received by now an invitation to the Provincial retreats: the first in Brisbane from 12-17 May; and the second at Maryvale/Montbel from 22-27 September.

Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner: will be held this year on the evening of Friday 27 September, following the Sydney retreat.

From General House: Ben McKenna wants you to know that on Friday 18 January the first edition of the Marist JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) blog was launched.

(continued at JPIC corner, p 5)



Marist Family

The Marist Sisters are marking their departure from the Woolwich site with a Mass and afternoon tea on Saturday March 23. Tony Corcoran will be the Mass celebrant.



Currumbin Bookings

The self-contained flat at Currumbin is available for bookings for Marists and their families. Bookings are made through the Provincial office. Current bookings are:

March 7-16

Fred Kado

March 17-24

Jim Hargrave

April 8-15

Tom Ryan (Family)

April 17-28

Gavin Foster

May 8-21

Peter McMurrich (Family)

July 1-8

Tom Ryan (Family)

July 14-20

Paul Sullivan

August 1-31

Garry Reynolds

Sept 12-26

Peter McMurrich

Nov 2-17

Bob Barber

Dec 7-13

John Thornhill (Family)

Please ensure if you stay at Currumbin you leave the place neat and tidy. It is the responsibility of those that use the facility to take care of it. On a number of occasions, the property has had to be cleaned by the people entering rather than those that have enjoyed the facilities. This is particularly the case with the flat – if you use it, before you go you should vacuum it, clean the bathrooms, clean benches, mop down tiled areas, and dispose of garbage and perishables.

The Provincial Council wishes to restate the policy on the use of the upstairs section of Currumbin. The understanding has been since the house was opened that it is for the exclusive use of professed Marists. The exception is for approved group use eg. Marist Charism Group planning meeting, where the usage is notified to confreres well in advance.

Enclosures

Kevin Bates reflection



Provincial Directory

Aliki Langi's email address: there don't seem to be too many mistakes or omissions in this year's Province Directory, but Aliki's email address should be alikelangism@gmail.com and not alikelangi@gmail.com (spot the difference!)

Gerry Arbuckle: Gerry has now moved to Montbel, and his phone number there is 02 9844 2270.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

International JPIC Blog

From p 4: **Ben McKenna** continues:

'People can sign up either by contacting me directly or by signing directly onto the site by clicking on the Envelope Icon towards the top right of the webpage.'

The blog address is: <https://jpicblog.maristsm.org/>

We can easily access the Blog through the Australian Province website's JPIC page, which also carries the Monday Blogs.

At present there are several topic categories including environment,

social justice, migrants and refugees and education.

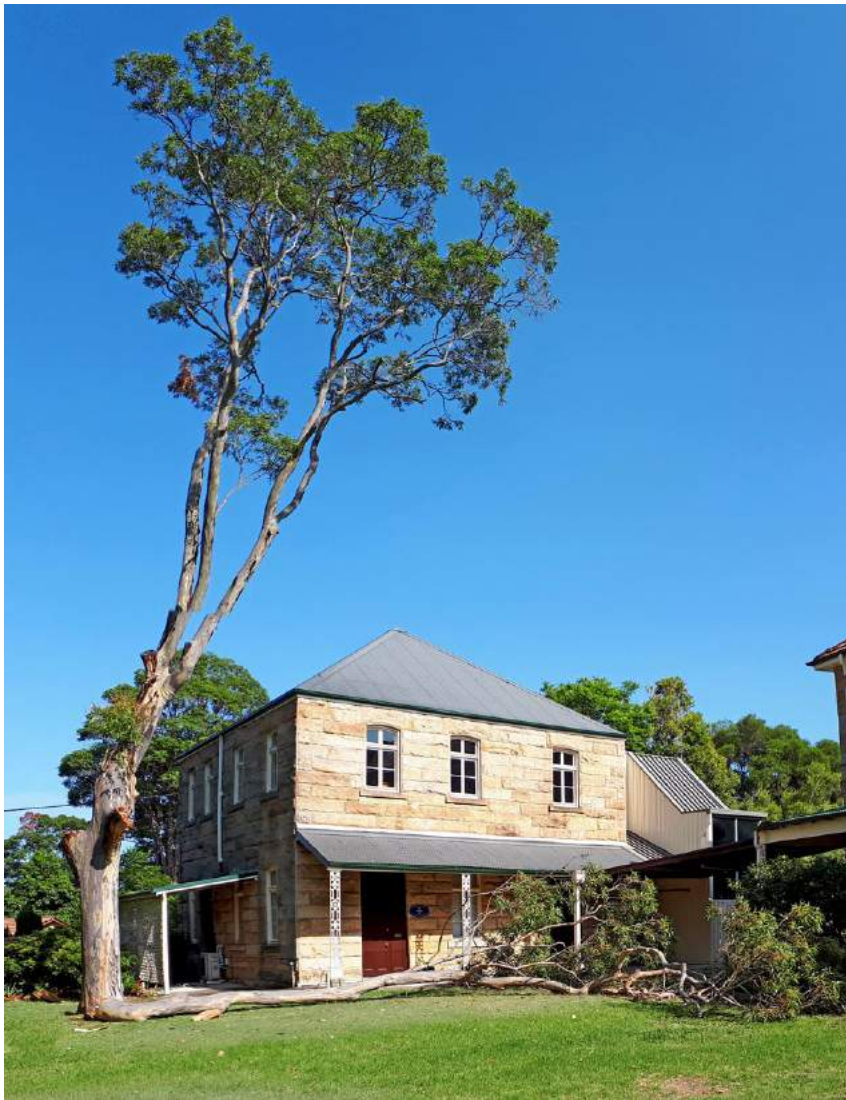
Contributors for the initial run of Blogs have been **Donato Kivi** (Fiji), **Peter Healy** (NZ), **Tony O'Connor** (Brownsville, Texas, USA), **Noelene Simmons** (Australia), **Karen Dessables** (Atlanta, USA) and **Pat Brophy** (NZ).



Above: **John Hopkinson** at Villa Maria | *Right and below: Soirée at Montbel for local confreres and visiting Marist Sisters and Brothers*



And also...



Left and above: 'Crack!' ... sudden collapse of a Eucalypt branch near Woodbury Hall and Villa Maria's western wing... no wind, no storm, no lightning.



Above: Aliko Langi's Thursday evening ukulele class at HNM parish hall | Right: Paddington group... from left, back row, Dominic Gibson, Gerry Hall, Dylan Hatobu, front: Justin Ratsi, Chris Ketsore, Paulo Rejende.

