



Marist Fathers

Australian Province - Provincial Circular

No 3 - 2018
Jun

From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

The river...

... is an image often used to express the journey of a life. People easily relate to the small spring originating high in the hills which then following a long journey to its destination, usually the sea.

On its journey it grows and matures thought many experiences. Rapids and waterfalls in early stages give way to a tranquil old meandering waterway as it approaches its destination.

The image is an appropriate way to viewing the life of our province. We experienced exciting and turbulent years early on and perhaps today we expect a sedate and gentle passage to our end. However, this is not what happens in the river or in any life.

New creeks and waterways entering the mature river close to its mouth may not appear to disturb the tranquillity of the sedate river — but they do.

Moments of grace

We must always expect and welcome new experiences in life. They may ruffle us up a bit but they really can be moments of grace, giving late growth and offering security and support in many ways. We should not underestimate how frequently we will have a new experience in a life journey.

An example of a new experience that can be really advantageous for us will be when we hold our Chapter of Election to choose our next provincial. It is new but it is not something we should fear. The important thing is that we must be clear about what we are doing and we must do it well.

Prayer and openness

For the first time in our existence a group is entrusted by the body of the province to exercise one of the most precious rights we have, electing our leader. In prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit our Chapter delegates, on behalf of the whole group, must make a discernment about what is best for the province.

My request is for the whole province

to hold this intention in our prayers until we have had our election and then to offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Woodlawn community

With our experience in recent years of withdrawing from ministries and closing communities one could expect this is no longer an issue and is not something difficult for us to do. However, for a number of confreres the announcement last week to close our community at Woodlawn and withdraw from the Diocese of Lismore was unexpected and caused pain.

Many of us came from the diocese; some entered the Society from the College; some experienced wonderful, fruitful years on the staff there. Let us not focus on the glass half empty and feel sad but let us celebrate and give thanks for our blessed association with Lismore Diocese.

When granting the province permission to close the Woodlawn community the General Administration very fittingly recognized the wonderful contribution over the last two



River Saône near Fourvière, Lyon

decades of Paul Pidcock and Kev Jackson at Woodlawn. We all say, "Amen" to that.

Marist Asia-Pacific

A couple of weeks ago the annual MAP meeting was held, this year in Ranong (Thailand), attended by the leaders from the provinces of New Zealand, Oceania, Australia and the District of Asia. Hosted by Asia, the organization of the meeting went very well.

Apart from the usual reports from units and sharing of information on men from one unit who are working/living in another unit a large number of agenda points came from last year's General Chapter.

Means of supporting Lay Marists and possible international Marist works were among those matters.

Other agenda matters were, discussion around the care of elderly confreres; formation; safeguarding protocols; health matters; organizational changes in units; purpose of visitation from Rome; and higher education and support for Oceania and Asian confreres.

Acting more globally

MAP is a great vehicle with a vital role to play in the Society as our various units are more and more compelled to unite and work closely together. The big hurdle still to be overcome is that each of our units, quite naturally, tends to focus on the needs and interests of its own patch.

Let us hope that gradually we can address this situation and begin thinking and acting more globally.

St Pat's Blessed Sacrament anniversary

What a wonderful occasion was the celebration on 6th May in St Patrick's that marked the leaving of the Blessed Sacrament in the hands of lay Catholics in the early days of the Australian colony.

Congratulations to Michael, the Marist community, the parish pastoral

team, and all those who volunteered to mark this important event in Australia's Catholic history.

Emphasis on this historically being a lay enterprise, in spite of the presence of most of Australia's active bishops at the celebration, was very deliberate and significant.

Focus and goals

Since our last Provincial Circular appeared the provincial council has held its annual meeting to re-set our focus and clarify goals for the year.

Recognizing the context of our province at this time, small and diminishing, in a year of transition from one leadership to another, and remaining committed to our guiding principles enunciated for the Society in Dublin (CS13) and reaffirmed by us each year since, this year we choose to give special attention to aged care; our prioritized ministries; our provincial committees; and activities of the provincial administration.

Aged Care review

We should be optimistic the Caring for the Aged review, currently being conducted by Andrew Murray and Br Tony d'Arbon, FMS, will be a great gift to the province. The report will be available by the time the next newsletter appears.

Many confreres have expressed satisfaction that they have been able to give their input to Andy and from his point of view Andy has been delighted at the insights and help he has received from so many.

Tidying up

An aspect of this year that is different from the norm for the provincial administration is that we will make an effort this year to try and "tidy up" a few matters before the next administration is in place, matters that have either slipped a little in recent years or have been part of our lives for a long time but definitely need to be fixed up.

For example, our use of cars in the province is an area needs to be

looked at and acted on. A plan to try and tackle the situation will be announced shortly.

Thanks...

... to all confreres for all that you do, from the men holding down high profile ministries to those in their retirement who are quietly praying for all of us. Each is doing a most valuable ministry.

Faternally

Bob Barber sm
Provincial



Provincial Diary

3 July

Catholic Professional Standards Ltd workshop

2-25 July

General Administration Visitation: Fr Ben McKenna sm

4-5 July

Chapter of Election, Hunters Hill parish hall

17 July

Provincial Council meeting

22 July

Sydney Fourviere Mass and social, Hunters Hill

22-28 July

Provincial on annual leave

5-10 August

Marist Immersion Experience, Villa Maria

16 August

Province Professional Standards Panel

17 Aug-15 Sept

Vicar Provincial on annual leave

19-21 August

Provincial Retreat, Maryvale/Montbel

21 August

Provincial Council meeting

Appointments

Pio Fong

We welcome Pio to the Province. He has been appointed initially until 31/12/2018 to the Villa Maria community and to work at St Patrick's, Church Hill. However, he is currently investigating the advisability of hip-replacement surgery, and this may delay his commencement at St Patrick's.

Michael Rego

Appointed to Maryvale/Montbel community as from 1/7/2018

Michael Carroll

Appointed coordinator of Brisbane Marists for a period of three years as from 1/5/2018

Personnel

Tony King moved to Southern Cross Aged Care at Marsfield on 22.5.2018, where he joins J V Walsh, Brian Conaghan, John Jago, Bill Ryder, and James Esler. He was farewelled from Montbel at a simple function there on Monday 14 May.

Jim Esler moved to Southern Cross Aged Care at Marsfield on 15 May, transitioning directly from Hunters Hill Private Hospital.

Ekuasi Manu is returning to Tonga at the end of June after completing his programme of studies at Australian Catholic University.

Paul Cooney has moved for the time being to Sydney and is resident at Maryvale/Montbel.

Greg Ferguson and Paul Glynn have now moved from Villa Maria and have joined the Maryvale/Montbel community.



Above: Villa Maria community, Hunters Hill, welcomes, and is serenaded by, newcomers, **Pio Fong** and **Alik Langi**, assisted by **Gavin Foster**. Below: Completing his studies in Australia, **Ekuasi Manu** is farewelled by friends and fellow students in Brisbane.



Above: Our guest cartoonist writes: 'At St Pat's Bicentenary celebrations in May, as Archbishop Fisher starts to preach, the fire alarm in the church goes berserk. Michael Whelan orders the congregation to ignore the evacuation call and thirty bishops are in paroxysms of laughter.' Below: **Tony King's** farewell from Montbel.



Michael Whelan was interviewed by Steve Chase for the News Radio Drivetime Programme on Thursday June 1, in regard to the seal of confession and proposed changes to reporting laws in State jurisdictions. The interview was subsequently used in other ABC news reports.

Aliki Langi has completed his appointment in the parish of Gladstone and is now based at Villa Maria in Sydney. He will be embarking on a period of renewal prior to taking up a new placement.

Deaths

Fr Meliton Carrillo Orive sm, d.1.5.2018, Coslada, Spain

Fr Luciano Carnino sm, d.11.5.2018, Torino, Italy.

Fr Petero Nauca Tagidrau sm, d.25.5.2018, Nadi, Fiji.

Fr Francois Xavier de Vivies sm, d.26.5.2018, Dumbea, New Caledonia

Fr Mario Santirocchi sm, d.1.6.2018, Rome, Italy

Fr Matteo Imbrici sm, d.4.6.2018, Rome, Italy.

Fr Norman Arkwright sm, d.26.6.2018, Chatburn, UK

Br Ray Kelleher sm, d.26.6.2018, Napier, NZ

Sick

Brendan ("Joe") Barber, Bob's brother, continues to make a good recovery from his recent stroke

Paul Cooney: Paul commenced a week long programme of radio-therapy in the second half of June at the Mater hospital in Sydney when his new medication regime failed to produce the desired outcome.

News

Closure of Marist Community at Woodlawn: We announce with regret the closure of the Marist community residence at St John's College, Woodlawn, and the transfer to Sydney of the two remaining Marists living there, **Paul Pidcock** and **Kevin Jackson**.



The closure will occur at the end of this year, when Paul and Kevin will move to the Marist retirement community at Hunters Hill.

When responsibility for St John's College was transferred from the Marist Fathers to the diocese of Lismore in 2000, a small Marist community remained on site, consisting of Fr Paul Pidcock, Fr Tom Maloney, and Br Kevin Jackson.

Up until recently Paul has provided chaplaincy services to the school, as well as liaising with Old Boys, and being available for Mass supply work in the diocese.

The closure of the Marist house will bring to an end a long period of Marist association with the diocese, going back to 1931 when St John's College was opened.

The closeness of the link between the Marist Fathers and the diocese is highlighted by the large number of professed and ordained Marists in Australia who have originated from the Northern Rivers area.

2018 Chapter Declarations & Decisions

Approval has been received from the General Administration for the Declarations and Decisions of the 2018 Extraordinary Provincial Chapter.

These have been incorporated in a new edition of our Provincial Legislation Booklet which Ron

SOCIETY OF MARY
PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA



Declarations and Decisions and Province Legislation

2018 Extraordinary Provincial Chapter
and 2016 Provincial Chapter

Nissen is currently shepherding through the printers.

The new booklet will also contain Declarations & Decisions of the 2016 Chapter, which remain in force.

CRA Archives

Following a request from Catholic Religious Australia for storage space for archive materials, we have made a room available on the ground floor of the Colin Library building. Some of the documentation to be stored comes from the various state branches of Religious Leaders' Conferences which have now all been absorbed into the national body.

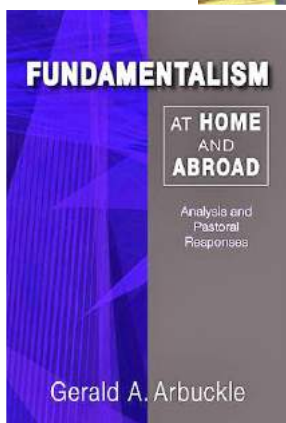
General Administration Visitation

Fr Ben McKenna, our designated Assistant with responsibility for Australia, will be here during July to conduct a visitation of the Province. He will visit Sydney, Brisbane, and Lismore only. His tentative schedule is:

2 July: arrive in Sydney
4-5 July: attend Chapter of Election, Hunters Hill
6-16 July: visitation of Sydney Marists
17 July: attends Provincial Council Meeting
18 July: travels to Brisbane
23 July: travels to Lismore
25 July: departs Sydney for Rome.

Brief visit from John Harhager

En route to visitation of the Oceania Province sectors of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, Vicar-General of the Society



John Harhager with Gerry Arbuckle

of Mary, **Fr John Harhager SM**, recently spent several days in Sydney.

He caught up again with **Fr Gerry Arbuckle** with whom he worked forty years ago on the *Anthropological Self-Study of Oceania Marists* which took them together to many parts of the Pacific.

SES Comes to Villa Maria

Some community members at Villa Maria were a little disconcerted on the evening of June 25 to observe flood lights playing on the Colin Library building, with figures in yellow wet-weather gear scaling ladders and crawling around on the roof.

Nothing to be alarmed about, fortunately. The local State Emergency Services unit had spotted the unused building and asked permission to use it as the focus of a training drill. In the morning they were gone, merely a fading memory for those community members who had spotted the visitors.

Willy Melteras and the PM

A recent weekend saw Willy in Canberra to meet with the Prime Minister of Vanuatu.

Willy was invited to join **Mr Charlot Salwai** during his official visit to the national capital.

Publications

The Catholic Press Association USA/ Canada, at their annual meeting, has



Willy and the Salwais

awarded 1st Place (Profession Books' Category) to **Gerry Arbuckle** for his book: *Fundamentalism at Home and Abroad: Analysis and Pastoral Responses*. The citation noted that the book was: "A masterpiece on an ultra-important topic..."

Advertising

NSW WWC: Just a reminder to Sydney-based confreres that you need to advise the Sydney Chancery as soon as you have renewed your Working with Children registration: ministry@sydneycatholic.org or phone Chancery 9390 5922.

Province Retreats 2018: This year, once again, there will be a retreat based at Maryvale/Montbel, running from 19-24 August. The other retreat will be held this year in Brisbane, at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre at Ormiston. It is now confirmed for 4-9 November.

Tom Ryan has kindly agreed to lead the retreats, which will have as their theme: *Abba Father: our Hope and Guide in Uncertainty and Darkness*.

Booking forms have now been sent out and are due for return by **Friday 20 July**. Numbers on the Brisbane retreat will be capped at 20.

Provincial Assembly: An Assembly of the Province has been called for September 25-27 at Hunters Hill.

The Preparatory Committee is: Kevin Bates, Michael Whelan, Michael Mullins, and Peter McMurrich.

The Assembly will focus on the issue of child sexual abuse and the Royal Commission.

Acceptances for 2018 Assembly:

Anonymous; Arbuckle; Austin; Barber; Bates; Begg (A-24-28 Sep); Byrne; Carroll (A-24-26 Sep); Carty; Ferguson; Foster; Garrett; Gillen; Glynn; Hall; Harding; Hollow; Jones; Kervin; McMurrich; Mahony; Melteras; Molloy (A-23-30 Sep); Mullins; Nissen; Nugent; Pidcock (A-22-29 Sep); Randle (A-24 Sep-1 Oct); Redmond (A-24-28 Sep); Reynolds; Ryan; Stewart; Sullivan; Truscott; Ware; Whelan; Wilson, B; Wilson, D (D); (38)

An anonymous acceptance was received for the Assembly. In days past we could have assumed that this was Bert Harcombe, but for obvious reasons he is not now a candidate.

If you expected to see your name on the list below, and it's not there, it may be because you forgot to put your name on the acceptance form. *Indicates dietary request.

Those requesting accommodation are also noted.

Jubilarians Mass & Dinner: The Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner will be held on the evening of Thursday, 27 September, at the conclusion of the Provincial Assembly.

Jubilarians are:

Ordination 60 Years Gerald Arbuckle (Z) 16.7.1958;

Ordination 50 Years Kevin Stewart 6.7.1968

Ordination 40 Years Paul Cooney 3.6.1978, Bernard McKenna (O) 9.12.1978, Stephen Truscott 25.5.1978;

Ordination 25 Years Paul Pearce 23.10.1993.

Acceptances 2018 Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner: the following have indicated that they are attending.

There are two anonymous acceptances – please contact the Provincial Office if you were expecting to see your name on the list below, and it isn't there.

Anonymous 1; Anonymous 2; Arbuckle; Austin; Barber; Bates; Byrne; Campbell; Carroll; Carty; Ferguson; Foster; Garrett; Glynn; Hall; Harding; Hollow; Jones; Kado; Kervin; McMurrich; Mahony; Melteras; Molloy; Mullins; Nissen; Nugent; Pidcock; Randle; Redmond; Reynolds; Ryan; Stewart; Truscott; Whelan; Wilson, B; Wilson, D (D); (37)*

*Indicates dietary request.

Marist Mission Centre AMCOA annual report is now available on the Mission Centre website.

Period of Marist Renewal: The General Administration is testing the waters regarding a proposed period of Marist renewal at La Neyliere, January-June, 2020.

The programme will be conducted in English, and will include retreats; visits to Marist places; inputs on the Society of Mary, its history and spirit; spiritual direction and accompaniment.

Confreres who may be interested are asked to indicate their interest by 31 July to the Provincial.

Centrelink & Rent-Assistance: We were recently advised by Catholic Religious Australia that from time to time Religious Orders have had difficulty in dealing with Centrelink.

Recently after submitting their **Authority & Direction & Tenancy Agreement (ADTA)** to Centrelink, one member of a Religious Order was incorrectly mailed a letter with instructions requesting the recipient to confirm or update rent details by a certain date or rent assistance would be stopped.

This may happen to more Orders as we submit our updated agreements over the coming weeks.

Please do not respond directly with Centrelink. Contact Andrew who will deal with the issue.

Provincial Directory



Please note that **Tony King & Jim Esler** (Room 55) have now moved to Southern Cross Aged Care, 16 Vincentia Street, Marsfield NSW 2122

- **John Burke** has moved to Montbel Room 1, 02 9844 2261
- **Paul Glynn** has moved to Montbel Room 8, 02 9844 2268
- **Greg Ferguson** has moved to Maryvale Room 4, 02 9844 2234

Phone numbers for confreres who have recently moved to Southern Cross Aged Care:

- **John Jago** 02 9878 3749
- **Jim Esler** 02 9878-8137
- **Tony King** 02 9878-5146
- **Bill Ryder** 02 9887 0144

Province web site



Members' access

The access code to the Province web site 'Members' page is:

Username: **sm**

Password: **colin**

This is the same as the International Marist web site. The change follows the recent and continuing upgrading of the web site.

'Sliders' from the web site's Home Page are now featured at the beginning of Provincial Circulars.

Enclosures

- Recommended Stipend rates
- MAP Meeting Summary



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:

June 1-30

Ray Chapman

July 8-13

Chris Ketsore

July 15-21

Kevin Stewart

July 22-28

Bob Barber

July 29-Aug 30

Garry Reynolds

Aug 31- Sept 15

Peter McMurrich

Sept 16-23

Jim Hargrave

Sept 24-Oct 11

Tom Fulcher

Oct 15-Nov 4

Bob Barber

Nov 9-17

Tom Ryan

Nov 18-26

Peter McMurrich (family)

Dec 14-28

Peter McMurrich (family)

2019

Dec 29-Jan 14

Michael Carroll

Jan 15-Feb 7

Peter McMurrich

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.



JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



Above, left: JPICC convenor, **Jim Carty**, recently visited the Marist Mission at Ranong, southern Thailand. Beforehand, Jim met up with **Wilai** for whom the 'Walk for Wilai' and other stateless children took Jim back to the Camino trail. With Wilai Foundation's **Jo Shears**, Jim and Wilai visited Kanchanaburi and the River Kwai, scene of Fr Lionel Marsden's vision of a Marist mission to Japan.

Right: The combined Marist Family JPICC welcomed **Br Paul Murphy FMS** (second from left) to the committee at its recent meeting. Br Paul replaces Br Paul Hough and brings extensive mission experience from his work in the Philippines.

And also...



Clockwise from top right: 'Sinking a cool one' at Ranong | Theology at the Mary St roundabout | Marist Sisters' jubilees | Pius Jones and friends | Marists at Herston | Balay Pasilungan kids on Philip Callaghan's anniversary, Davao | CityFest youth in St Pat's crypt | Brazilian lay retreat at Villa Maria.