

Marist Fathers

Australian Province - Provincial Circular

No 4 - 2018
Aug

From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

Unique and sad

During the last two months our province has experienced the death of three confreres. Having so many deaths close together has been a unique and sad experience for us. Brian Conaghan, John Jago and Paul Cooney were our brothers and men we loved very much.

John and Paul were both provincials of Australia and John was our Superior General for a term. Both men contributed to the life of the Society at a high level and their influence was significant.

It is, however, not primarily a station in life achieved by these men that has us treasure their memory so deeply.

In each person we see how they reflected to us in their own unique way the love and beauty of our Father: gentleness; compassion and kindness; cheerfulness; respect and justice; leadership... these are some of the beautiful memories that spring quickly to mind when we hold these men in our thoughts and prayers.

We are reminded of Jesus' teaching that there are many rooms in my Father's house. (Jn 14:2)

Brian, John and Paul, each enriched us by their lives, and encouraged our brotherhood in the Marist way, through their distinctive gifts.

We have lost three confreres but in each instance, we have experienced a

precious consolation. Each man gave us, and others, his "gift" during our lives together and, in the end, each man was very much at peace and looked forward to his return to the Father.

Please keep our deceased brothers, great men, in your thoughts and prayers.

Marist Charism & Culture

One of the wonderful gifts Paul Cooney left us from his period as Provincial was his groundwork in preparing for MCC, Marist Charism and Culture.

This began when Paul took Glenn Roff, first lay principal of Woodlawn, to an annual CRA (Catholic Religious of Australia) Conference in Adelaide designed to see how religious could share, expand and continue the charism of their congregation with their lay collaborators.

Glenn spoke about this at the Provincial Chapter in 2012.

When AMSA, the Association of Marist Schools of Australia, disbanded in 2011 some of those working in our

Society of Mary founded schools wanted to do something to ensure that "Marist" values and identity could be preserved and shared across the colleges.

Glenn Roff, with Kim Evans and Gerry Hall, and the principals of the three former Marist Fathers colleges came together in 2014 to form the Marist Charism and Culture committee.

The committee has now been expanded and includes the Marist Sisters founded schools of Merrylands and Woolwich.

It is claimed by some confreres that Woodlawn, Burnie and Bellambi are today more "Marist" than they were in days when the Society of Mary were the governors.

This may or may not be true. If there is some truth here perhaps it comes from us living too enthusiastically the "hidden and unknown" principle of our charism.

Current day principals of "Marist" colleges frequently present to their students, staff and parents, through many avenues, the values of being a



Glenn Roff with Marist Charism & Culture group

Marist and living in way inspired by Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother.

So often we come across people who are deeply appreciative of this 'hidden and unknown' treasure in their lives.

As a province we must be very grateful to the MCC committee for the work they do.

Leaving aside visits to schools and the Youth Leadership Camp for Yr 11 students hosted by Woodlawn each year, we note the treasure found in the intensive one-week immersion courses that are held at Villa Maria twice a year for lay Marist teachers and staff to study Marist charism.

We may have started this sharing of our charism with lay collaborators late in the piece, and it may have only been in a little way, but today, with six immersions held during the last 3 years, there are very significant numbers of teachers and ancillary staff from Burnie, Bellambi and Woodlawn who have attended these courses.

Most go home passionate about being able to identify themselves as a Marist.

On the last course, because he was new to the post, a principal (a very busy man) took a week away from his school to attend one of the programs. That says so much.

Sharing the Marist charism is something that can be done with lay collaborators in our mission of the Society other than through our Marist founded schools.

It is to be sincerely hoped that we as a province with limited resources, will do what we can to see how "sharing our Marist charism" is developed in coming years.

Sorrow and shame

On 20th August, the Holy Father addressed a short impassioned letter to the whole People of God. It is a letter every Catholic should read and take to heart.

In the letter, Pope Francis said:
It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn,

with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetuated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable.

Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others.

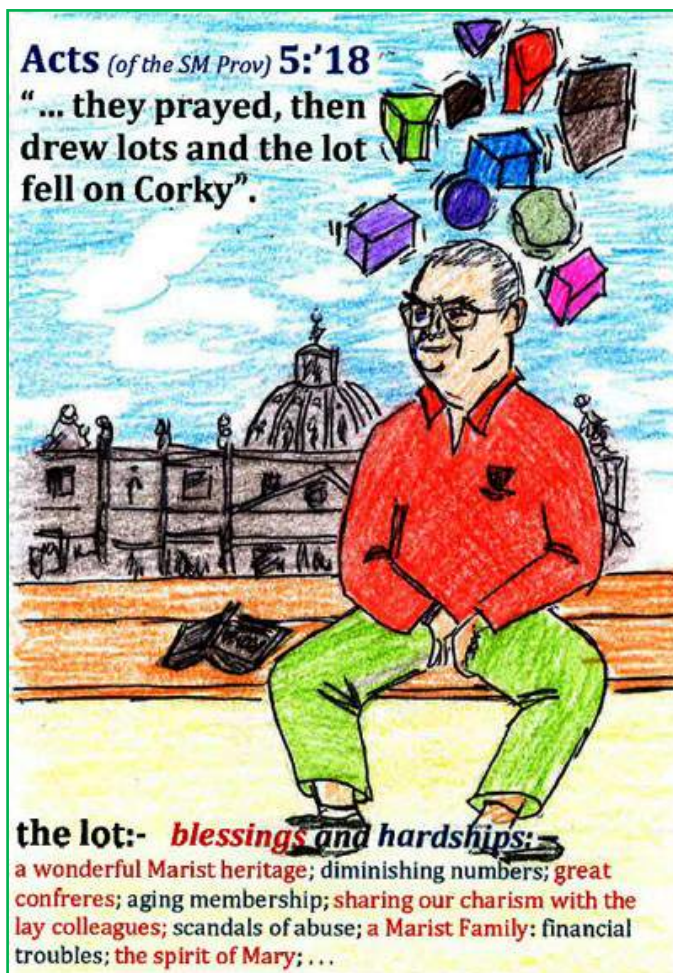
Many of us hate being reminded, day after day, of the shame that instances of abuse of minors and vulnerable adults brings to us all.

But the matter won't go away. Every day some new aspect or horrible revelation comes up. A reminder for us to do things, beg forgiveness, and be ever vigilant in looking out for the welfare of children and the vulnerable in our society.

Our prayer has got to be that the upcoming Assembly of our province in September will be a time of grace for us all.

Fraternally

Bob Barber sm
Provincial



Provincial Diary

Sep 4

Province Finance Committee

Sep 8-14

Provincial visiting Gladstone

Sep 16

Sesquicentenary of Marists at St Patrick's, Church Hill

Sep 18

Provincial Council Meeting

Sep 25-27

Assembly of the Province

Sep 27

Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner

Sep 28

Provincial to ARC Meeting, Rome

Oct 14

Provincial returns from Rome

Oct 16

Provincial Council Meeting

Oct 17-31

Provincial Annual Leave

Appointments

Fr Tony Corcoran has been elected Provincial to commence on 1 January, 2019.

Fr Peter McMurrich has been appointed vicar-provincial to Tony from 1 January, 2019.

Personnel

Michael Mullins acted as consultant to a leadership workshop at La Neyliere from 22-28 July for the Province of Europe.

Participants were supported by the team of tireless interpreters, Rachel Balsan Ghera, who has worked with the province several times since 2012, and two confreres, Francisco Chauvet (Mex) and Joaquin Fernandez (Esp).

The aim of the workshop was to explore and understand the role of the leader at both local and provincial levels, in the context of the European Province today, and to devise ways of supporting those in leadership in their roles.

Deaths

Fr Brian Conaghan sm: Brian died in the early hours of Monday 2 July at Ryde Hospital (Sydney), after being admitted several days before with congestion on the lungs, and difficulty with swallowing.

His Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on Friday 6 July, with the Provincial as presider and homilist.

Burial followed at Macquarie Park Lawn Cemetery, North Ryde.



Tony Corcoran



Peter McMurrich

Fr John Jago sm: John died early on the morning of 17 July at Southern Cross Aged Care at Marsfield.

His Mass of Christian Burial was held at Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, on 23 July, Fourviere anniversary day.

He was buried at Macquarie Park Lawn Cemetery, North Ryde.

Fr Paul Cooney sm: Paul died around 10.30pm on Sunday 5 August, at Lawrence Hargrave Private hospital at Thirroul.

Mass of Christian Burial took place on Saturday 11 August at St Michael's church at Thirroul, with the burial taking place locally.

Michael Mullins presided at the Mass and preached.

Mrs Ruth Holohan: mother of Luke, died in Brisbane on 26 July, only a few days shy of her 96th birthday.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at St John the Baptist church, Enoggera, on Tuesday July 31, with burial later at Pinnaroo Lawn cemetery.

Ten confreres concelebrated the funeral Mass with Luke.

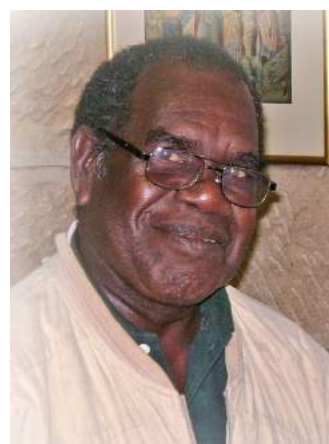
Tony Austin: brother of Chris, died in Hastings, New Zealand on Aug 31. On behalf of the Province we extend our condolences and prayers to Chris and the family.

Fr Reg Riley sm
d.6.8.2018, Burnley, UK

Bp John Doaninoel sm
d.7.8.2018, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Br Benno (Josef) Engraf sm
d.15.8.2018, Passau, Germany.

Fr Pierre Chabanet sm
d. 17.08.18, St Genis-Laval, France



Above: Brian Conaghan, John Jago, Paul Cooney, Bishop John Doaninoel

Sick

Let us pray for our confreres who are sick...

Jack Soulsby

Jack has been diagnosed as having a terminal cancer located in the kidney.

He is in positive spirits despite the severity of his condition.

Neville Byrne

After several falls recently, Neville was admitted to Royal North Shore hospital, the doctors diagnosing a minor stroke.

Nev, alert and articulate as ever, was expected to return shortly to Montbel.

Roger Bellemore: Roger was admitted recently to Wyong hospital with an infection.

Roger's Parkinson's, which mainly affects his legs, was exacerbated through this experience and he can no longer handle stairs.

Coupled with advancing dementia Roger has been forced to leave his retirement village home and move to a comfortable nursing home, Bupa Aged Care, 17 Bias Ave, Bateau Bay, 2261, a few hundred meters from Karangi Court.

Roger moved on Monday, 6th August. Roger's close friends and neighbours at Bateau Bay are able to keep good contact with him.

Willy Melteras: Willy underwent open-heart surgery on Monday, 20th August, to correct a congenital defect in his heart.

The operation and recuperation at Royal North Shore appear to have gone very well. Willy moved to Hunters Hill Private on 27th August to continue rehab before moving to Maryvale for a time of rest and regaining his strength.



News

2018 Chapter Declarations &

Decisions: copies of the Province Legislation booklet incorporating the declarations & decisions of the 2018 Chapter have now been distributed.

Anyone who hasn't received their copy should alert the Vicar Provincial. Thanks to Ron Nissen for guiding the booklet through the printing process.

Aged Care Review

The report to come from the Aged Care Review being conducted by Andrew Murray, with assistance of Br Anthony d'Arbon, FMS, is close to completion.

The province will be greatly served over the coming years by this very important study.

John Thornhill: The theological publications of John Thornhill (70

articles and 7 books) are available, free of charge, on a new website - www.johnthornhill.org.

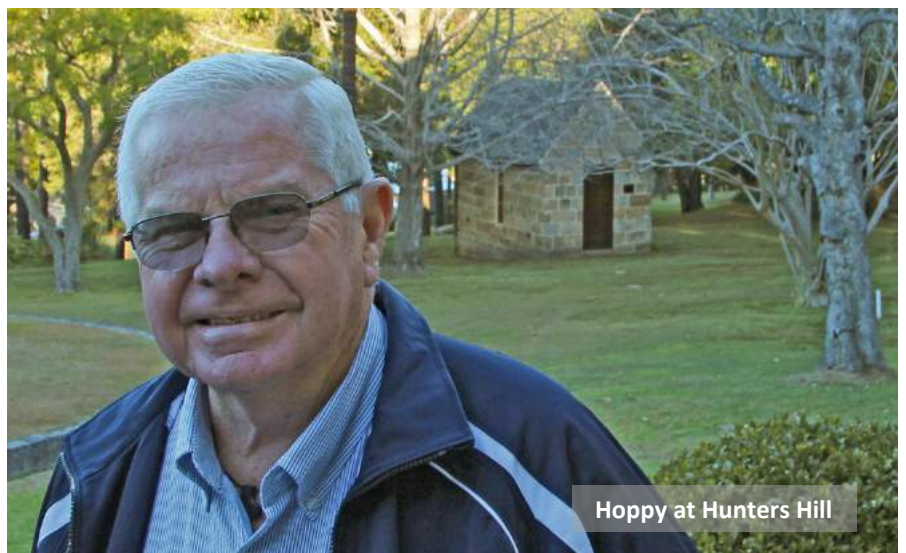
"This website – painstakingly organised, artistically presented and user friendly, will serve a wide range of users. Academics and students of theology will be able to follow the development of John's thought.

"Non-academic users will be able to consider new developments in theology (since Vatican 11) that will bring new life to the Church".

John Hopkinson

John spent some time in Sydney, Brisbane and the north coast recently, before moving to Tasmania where he will spend some sabbatical time and pastoral work on the north-west until early 2019.

Welcome home, Hoppy. Enjoy your sabbatical.





Frank Bird at ACU, North Sydney

Frank Bird

From the Marist Mission at Ranong, southern Thailand, Frank spent a week in Sydney and Brisbane, connecting mainly with Australian Catholic University personnel.

Frank reports positive responses from the ACU folk who plan to continue their Thai-Burma border courses in 2019.

MMC funds helped John Larsen to set up the Ranong enterprise and continue to support the mission's activities.

Marist Charism Immersion

Experience: the second of two live-in, Monday-Friday programmes for 2018 was held at Villa Maria from 6-10 August. Coordinators were Kim Evans and Glenn Roff, with coaching and assistance from Gerard Hall. Participants were staff members from Marist Fathers' former schools at Woodlawn, Bellambi, and Burnie; and Marist Sisters' schools at

Merrylands and Woolwich.

Colin Biography book launch

ATP, the publishers of Justin Taylor's biography of Marist founder, Jean-Claude Colin, *'Reluctant Founder'*, taking advantage of the presence of Justin's presence in Australia are planning a book launch to be held at Villa Maria on **Friday, 21st September, at 6pm.**

We hope to have a good roll up of confreres, members of the Marist Family, and our Marist friends and collaborators.

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@sydnecatholic.org or phone Chancery 9390 5922.

Please also advise the Vicar Provincial and provide him with a

copy of your renewal confirmation sheet.

Province Retreats 2018: Tom Ryan conducted the first of this year's two Provincial retreats at Maryvale/Montbel, 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. Confreres attending that retreat will receive an information mail-out during October. Those currently booked for the Brisbane retreat are: Begg, J; Chapman, R; Fong, P; Hall, G; Hollow, R; McMurrich, P; Melteras, W; Mahony, P; Molloy, L; Randle, C; Ryan, T; Wilson, D **(12)**

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.

The following are booked for the Assembly: Arbuckle; Austin; Barber; Bates; **Begg**; Byrne; **Carroll**; Carty; Ferguson; Foster; Garrett; Gillen; Glynn; Hall; Harding; **Hollow**, R; Holohan; Jones; Kervin; McMurrich; Mahony; Melteras; **Molloy**; Mullins; Nissen; Nugent; **Pidcock**; **Randle**; **Redmond**; Reynolds; Ryan; Stewart; Sullivan; Truscott; Ware; Whelan; Wilson, B; Wilson, D; Worthington, J; **(39)** Names in black type have requested accommodation, which will be mostly at Villa Maria.

Sessions on the 3 days will commence at 9.30am in the Hunters Hill parish hall. On Tuesday and Wednesday, we will finish around 3.30pm, and the Assembly will conclude at lunchtime on Thursday 27th.

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.



First provincial retreat, with Tom Ryan

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: Arbuckle; Austin; Barber; Bates; Begg; Byrne; Campbell; Carroll; Carty; Ferguson; Fong, P; Foster; Garrett; Glynn; Hall; Harding; Hollow, R; Jones; Kado; Kervin; McMurrich; Mahony; Melteras; Molloy; Mullins; Nissen; Nugent; Pearce; Pidcock; Randle; Redmond; Reynolds; Ryan; Stewart; Sullivan; Truscott; Whelan; Wilson, B; Wilson, D; Worthington, J (40)

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.

Paul Cooney's funeral: Paul Cooney's sister Claire has made available a YouTube video of Paul's funeral in Thirroul on 11th August.

For Paul's confreres in Australia and overseas who were unable to attend the funeral, the link is:
<https://youtu.be/MiKwkCpNg7k>

Rome's Communications

The Secretariat in the General House is updating its mailing lists and trying to improve, from their side, internal communication within the Society.

They would like to know if everyone is happy with the way they receive the SM Bulletin, Superior General's Reflections, and the notification of deceased confreres.

If you are having any problems with the way you receive these pieces of information please inform the provincial administration.

The SM Bulletin, Reflections of the Superior General, and death notices are available in languages other than English. The Secretariat will make an announcement about this service in the near future.

Woodlawn farewell

Confreres are encouraged to join in the official farewell of the Woodlawn community, Paul Pidcock and Kevin Jackson, to be held on Sunday, Nov 25. Details later.

Provincial Directory

Please note the following changes:

- **Jack Soulsby**, new email address: pjsoulsby@bigpond.com
- **Ron Nissen**, new room phone number: 02 9844 2219

Provincial web site

The 'Members' page is now more easily accessed and with content updated.



An improved, user-friendly log-in area gives access to 'Members Content' and most English-language Marist bulletins worldwide.

Latest resource to be added is the Oceania Marist Bulletin (English edition).

Resources currently on the 'Members Content' page are:

- Australian Province circulars, bimonthly
- SM Bulletins, weekly from Rome
- Oceania Marist Province bulletins
- Euroinfo monthly
- e-Bulletins from USA
- Superior-General's monthly reflections
- Statements and Decisions of the 2017 General Chapter.

Log-in info:

- User: sm
- Password: colin



Then go to 'Members' content' tab

Enclosures

- Homily for Brian Conaghan: Bob Barber
- Homily for John Jago: Tom Ryan
- Homily for Paul Cooney: Michael Mullins



Burial of Paul Cooney, Wombarra



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:

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.

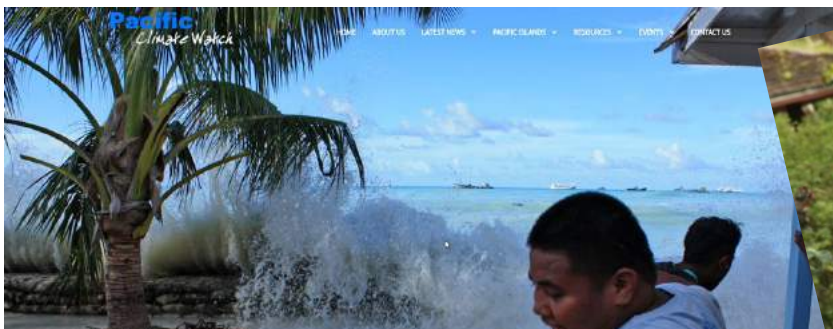
On a number of occasions, the property has had to be cleaned by the people entering rather than those that have enjoyed the facilities.

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: Meeting with Assistant-General, **Fr Ben McKenna**, the JPIC Committee discusses looming issues of environmental devastation and rising sea levels.

Right, above: BP-ers of the present Bridge Program (BP18) trying on their signature shirts.

Right, below: BP-ers during a regular Skype video chat, an essential component of the Bridge Program.



And also...



Top from left: Casting votes at the Elective Chapter | Inscription revealed after hedge clipping, Villa Maria
Left: Marist Laity retreat, Woodbury Hall.
Below: Joeys' lads entertain at Montbel | Marist Family Fourvière celebrations, Hunters Hill parish hall.

