



Marist Fathers Australian Province Provincial Circular

No 5– Oct 2019

Brothers

Peter McMurrich suggested I write this to you while on the flight back home from Rome. However, I usually end up in a zombie-state on such journeys, so I write this before I pack my bags and after an enjoyable end of meeting lunch with all those assembled for ARC.

ARC stands for Annual Review and Consultation, the meeting in which the General Administration reports on the progress in putting into effect the decisions of the previous general chapter and together reviews that progress with the major superiors and consults them on significant decisions and future planning. It continues to be a significant opportunity to develop a collegial responsibility of the Society's mission.

We began our time together in a day of recollection, returning to Nazareth to view things from there, guided by the opening numbers of the Chapter of 2017 on the mission of the Society. We then had an interlude of four days with the SVDs in Nemi, where under the guidance of Australian, Tim

Horton svd, we addressed interculturality and religious life and mission.

The meeting proper began with reports from each of the major superiors on the state of his unit. During the course of our eight days of meetings, reports on a various of matters were given and discussed, among them: the finances of the Society, developments in initial formation, youth ministry, Marist Laity, the cause of the Founder, vocations, safeguarding.

Specific issues given attention were: the establishment of two commissions on ecology and inter-religious dialogue, the care of Marists in the first five years of ministry, a future program of Marist Studies at La Neyliere, the reconfiguration of governance structures for units facing diminishment, the future restructuring of the GA, the call of the chapter to the GA to give particular attention to the animation/ establishment of international works of the Society manned by international teams.

A significant aspect of ARC is the opportunity it gives for each of the major superiors to meet with the superior general, assistants and bursar general, as well as with each other.

Two memorable events during the weeks together were the final profession of seven young Marists at our Roman scholasticate, *Casa di Maria*, from Africa, South America, Mexico, Oceania and New Zealand; and the concelebrated mass in the crypt of St Peter's before the tomb of St Peter.

The next ARC meeting is scheduled for October 9 – 20, 2020, in Rome. The following year will see the Council of the Society meeting in Mexico from October 9 – 22.

Tony Corcoran



Provincial Diary

1 November

CPSL Audit Continues

5 November

Reconciliation Committee, Burnie

19 November

Provincial Council Meeting

22 November

Chris Comerford Farewell,
Woodlawn

22-24 November

Marist Farewell from Gladstone

3 December

Finance Committee Meeting

12 December

Professional Standards Panel

17 December

Provincial Council Meeting

23 December

Provincial Office closes at midday

Appointments

Kevin Bates commences a 4-year term as Provincial Councillor on 1 November, and also becomes non-administrative Vicar Provincial as from 1 January next year.

Personnel

Tom Ryan presented a paper at the September 2019 annual conference of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Its title was 'Recent Research on the Use of Pornography and its Effect on Marriage Consent.' It will be published in the *Proceedings* of the conference.

Garry Reynolds is due to complete his current term on the Provincial Council on 31 October.

According to infallible records kept at the Provincial Office, Garry has served a grand total of 22 years on the Council, with 6 of those as Provincial.

Peter McMurrich is due to complete his term as Vicar Provincial on 31 December, which will also see him finish his time on the Provincial Council.

According to infallible records kept at the Provincial Office, this will bring to an end a total of 20 years on the Council, with 16 of these as Vicar Provincial.

Tony Corcoran was due to return from Rome on the morning of 31 October following the annual ARC meeting at the General House.

Gerard Hall was in France and Rome briefly in October, accompanying a pilgrimage of Marist schoolteachers and staff to Marist places.

The group caught up with **Ray Chapman**, who is now a member of the La Neyliere community.

Bob Barber: at the annual dinner of Marist Schools Australia on 25 October at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, Bob's contribution to the Marist Brothers' education ministry was formally recognised.

The citation mentions in particular his living and working with the brothers in Nairobi and Cameroon, and his membership of the Marist Schools Australia Regional Council 2016-18.

Bob was praised for his "strength of faith, quiet humour and gentleness of spirit" and for his "wise counsel and considered advice".

Sick

Colin Campbell was in Royal Prince Alfred hospital for 6 days in mid-October for treatment for a leg infection.

Kevin Jackson had two visits to Royal North Shore Private hospital in late September and again in mid-October, initially for heart-related issues, and then for a blood infection.

Below: Gerry Hall with MCC group in Rome | Ray Chapman and the La Neyliere community



Deaths

Fr John O'Neill sm, d.28.8.2019, Wellington, NZ

Fr Robert Champagne sm, d.3.9.2019, Wellesley MA, USA

Fr Jacques Parent sm, d.21.9.2019, Quebec, Canada.

Fr Jean Neyret sm, d.26.9.2019, Paris, France.

Adrian Drane, d.16.9.2019, Burnie, Tasmania; Adrian was principal of Marist Regional College, Burnie. Earlier this year he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he took indefinite leave.

His funeral was held in Burnie on Saturday 21 September. The Provincial represented the Province.

On 18 September a condolence motion was moved in the Senate, and a copy is enclosed with this mailing.



Patrick Rowe, d.17.10.2019, Durham, North Carolina, USA. Pat was ordained in 1976. He went to Chicago in 1982 for studies but withdrew from priesthood and religious life in 1984. He married and subsequently accepted a decree of laicisation. He leaves a wife, Wendy, and daughter, Adelaide.



News

Provincial Office: there will be some significant re-structuring in the Provincial Office for next year when we cease to have a fulltime Vicar Provincial.

We are currently looking to fill two part-time positions in the Office: firstly, a part-time Administrative Secretary, and secondly a part-time Professional Standards and Safeguarding role.

We believe we have identified particular individuals for both roles and will be working with them in the weeks ahead in regard to responsibilities and working conditions.

Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL) Audit: : The day before our audit was to commence on October 29, Tania Stegeman from CPSL, who was preparing to conduct the audit, contacted us with the news that her sister had just died in Brisbane after a battle with cancer.

The audit has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for another time.

The auditors will visit the Provincial Office, Hunters Hill parish, and St

Patrick's parish, and will also seek to interview a representative sample of the Province, speaking with 16 randomly selected confreres.

We will then receive a draft report, with the opportunity for comment before the final version is published on the CPSL website early in the new year.

Provincial Council Elections: There will be a significant turnover of membership of the Provincial Council between now and the beginning of next year.

As from 1 November, Kevin Bates has replaced Garry Reynolds; we are nearing the end of the election process for a second vacancy, to replace Peter McMurrich as from the end of December; a further election will then be needed for a replacement for Gavin Foster who finishes at the end of February.

The two constants are Tony Corcoran, as Provincial, and Paul Sullivan, who has agreed to extend his term by 12 months in the interests of continuity.

Sr Rita Hanly smsm: a group of around 20 smsm Sisters, relatives of Sr Rita, and Marist fathers gathered on the morning of October 18 at Villa Maria cemetery for a simple interment of the ashes of Sr Rita, who died recently.

There are 6 smsm/tom burials in the cemetery, the earliest dating from 1911 and the last one occurring in 1937. Sr Rita's ashes were placed in close proximity to the earlier smsm burials.

An agreement signed recently with



the Sisters envisages their using the cemetery from time to time for the interment of ashes.

Who's Laughing Now: For those who came in late, *La Vache qui rit* ("The Laughing Cow") is a brand of French processed cheese.

Mention of Ray Chapman and La Neylière brings to mind an occasion when Ray Chapman and Peter McMurrich were visiting there in 2001 while participating in a Marist renewal.

A French confrere enquired whether there was much French cheese available in Australia. When advised that *La Vache qui rit* was certainly



readily available, the confrère scoffed, indicating that cheese of that quality and type was only made to be exported to the colonies, and that no self-respecting Frenchman would ever consider eating it.

The next day saw the pilgrimage group on a day trip to the village of Ars, and the two Australian confrères were delighted to find that the entire display window of the local delicatessen was dedicated to a promotion for *La Vache qui rit* cheese.

They couldn't get back to La Neylière quickly enough to continue their conversation with the local confrère.

Who's a Turkey Now? If you hear members of the Villa Maria community complaining about having to live with turkeys, they may not necessarily be referring to other members of the community.

So happens that a rapidly increasing

cohort of Bush Turkeys have taken up residence in the Villa Maria grounds, and wander without fear as far as



Montbel and the parish hall.

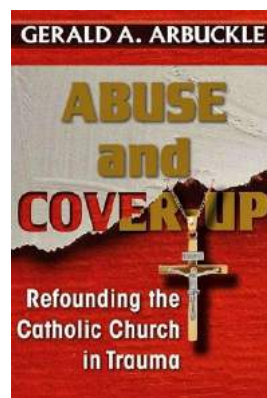
The turkeys are apparently invading Sydney's suburbs and migrating closer and closer to the CBD. A sighting around St Patrick's in the middle of town may not be too far off.

Publications

Gerry Arbuckle's latest book has been published by Orbis, NY: ***Abuse and Cover-Up: Refounding the Catholic Church in Trauma***.

Peter Phan, Georgetown University writes: "Among the many books on clergy sex abuse, this...is without doubt the most helpful..."

Print and e-book edition are available through Bookdepository, or Amazon or Garratt Publishing (Australian Distributor).



Advertising

Currumbin Upstairs: See the notice below re Currumbin Bookings. Currumbin not available 5-9 December.



Provincial Directory

Andrew Murray's preferred email address is: andrewmurraysm@gmail.com rather than the one currently listed in the Provincial Directory.

Enclosures

- Condolence Motion for Adrian Drane

Currumbin Bookings



Dec 05-09 incl: *For Fr Mark Walls sm and team conducting the Marist Youth Leaders camp at Woodlawn in early December. **All upstairs area is booked** – not the flat.*

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

Nov 2-25

Bob Barber

Dec 7-13

John Thornhill (Family)

Dec 26 – Jan 14

Michael Carroll

Jan 15-31

Peter McMurrich (family)

Feb 7-29

Peter McMurrich

Mar 15-21

Jim Hargrave

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 upstairs section of Currumbin 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.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Right: Developed by the Marist Family JPIC Committee, the '**Caring for our planet**' leaflet was presented to the recent ARC gathering Rome by Assistant-General, Ben McKenna.

The leaflet summaries eco-friendly ideas from members of the committee and can be downloaded from the Province website's JPIC page.

Below: Coordinating Team members of the **Bridge Program** in Maesot, Thailand. The team is currently overseeing the conclusion of BP19, the ninth in the series of twenty-week online programs conducted since 2012 preparing young Burmese refugees to apply for tertiary education, including ACU's Thai-Burma border online program.

Pictured, from left: **Khun Star** (coordinator), **Cecilia Brangnu**, **Than Zaw** and **Tun Tun**.



Pope Francis, in *Laudato Si'*, challenges the world to address the environmental issues of our time, indeed, of our future.

The members of the Marist Family's *Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation* Committee offer these ideas, drawn mostly from their own choices, for taking more responsibility for our planet...



And also...

Clockwise from top right: **Paul Mahony** with **Brs Kevin Jackson** and **Colin Campbell** at Montbel | Oceania provincials, past and present, in Rome: **Bp Paul Donoghue**, **Setefano Mataele** and **Ben McKenna** | **Marist Laity** at Hunters Hill | Tree felling near Villa Maria cemetery | At St Anne's Nursing Home, Gerry Hall's Auntie Margaret (**Sr Philomena SM**) celebrating 70 Marist years | Returning to Rome for studies, Kiwi **Hayden Powick** with **Gerry Hall** at Paddington





From top: Brisbane Marists with **Kevin and Trish McGrory**, Stafford, for Cerdon celebrations on Oct 29 | **Aliki Langi** with Gladstone and Hunters Hill ukulele groups | **Pio Fong** (arrowed) with Marian procession from St Mary's Cathedral to St Patrick's

