

Marist Fathers

Australian Province - Provincial Circular

No 5 - 2018
Oct

From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

At the outset I apologize to you for what I know will be a lengthy tirade from me at the start of this provincial circular. There have been so many important things that have occurred recently or currently going on that need to be mentioned.

Our response

The Province Assembly held from 25 - 27th September, as a province response to the Royal Commission into sexual abuse of young people within Australian institutions, was a truly remarkable and wonderful event in the life of our province.

We have “discussed” our involvement in the sexual abuse scandal involving the Church in assemblies and gatherings a number of times in the past and we have had victims speak to us, but this assembly was different. It is hard to pin point what has happened in our group in recent months, and particularly with the Assembly, but it is as if we have had a great change of heart, a change in culture.

It is, as if for the first time, and as far as one could tell for all of those participating, our group was profoundly affected by the damage that sexual abuse, perpetrated by our confreres, has had on the lives of victims in a way we have not been touched before. “Belief” seems to have been the key ingredient in what changed our heart(s).

Truly inspired

Early in the Assembly, Krysia shared her story with us. Despite the horrible crime and damage done to her, she survived. Her faith; her belief in the Church; her strength; truly inspired us. Nobody, except her wonderful parents, believed in her. The Church did not. Until Krysia spoke to us many of us did not know how harmful ‘not believing’ was to a victim.

In the past when hearing a victim’s story or being confronted with shocking revelations to do with our sexual abuse ignominy I feel we have instinctively reacted in a defensive way, attempted to justify ourselves in many subtle ways. It is as if we did not really ‘believe’, we did not truly acknowledge our terrible sin. I believe this is at the heart of our metanoia experience at the Assembly.

We had an exceptionally good roll up of confreres at our Assembly and others would have been affected in different ways, but from my point of view “believing” encapsulates the positive outcome we received.

Our Assembly was a great blessing for us. We are indebted to our organizing committee and the amazing team and people who led us through these days. In future let us continue to believe unconditionally our victims and in all we do keep our gaze fixed on the young and vulnerable, doing all we can to protect them from harm.

Moving forward as a Province we must all commit ourselves to pursuing the three stated goals from our Assembly: listening to the voice of survivors; growing a culture of safeguarding in our communities; and pursue educational and professional development, as individuals and a group, in all things around safeguarding.

From around the world

From the 1st – 10th October ARC, the annual meeting of major superiors and the General Administration of the Society, was held in Monteverde,



Video presentation begins 150th celebrations at St Patrick's for Marists

Rome. This year both Tony Corcoran and I participated from Australia. Once again, it was a great meeting and a privilege to work closely with outstanding Marists from around the world.

There was a different feel about this meeting, the first of our new General Council, which concentrated on following up on the General Chapter of 2017.

New life to our mission

Matters to do with governance and future structuring of the Society are high on the agenda of our new general administration, as are new missions and selecting some particular works that the international Society will be responsible for and will support. In this way the Society will focus on giving new life to our mission with emphasis on values selected by the General Chapter.

Prayer and care for creation

In the light of what was seen at ARC a couple of areas that we in Australia could do a bit more work on are contemplative prayer and our care of creation. Both were identified at the

General Chapter and held up to us for attention.

We have been very busy during the past year and we can use that as an excuse for doing little but with the deck a bit clearer now let us, individually, as communities, and as a province group, take a fresh look at how we can become men of contemplation and more actively care for creation, the image of God.

Innovations

Around the Society some interesting innovations have come about in developing contemplative prayer and caring for creation that we could well adopt. Getting behind the Marist Commission for Ecology, strongly supported by our own JPIC group, and inviting men in the province who have the time and opportunity to link together and undertake a specific contemplative prayer component in their lives, are two things we could adopt.

Aged Care

Early in the year when Andrew Murray was commissioned to undertake an Aged Care review for

the province the Provincial Council were convinced of its immense value for our province.

That view has not changed during the year but has intensified. This review of aging and how we should be responding is without doubt one of the most important things done in our province in recent years.

Not only do our sincere thanks go to Andrew and his advisor and supporter, Br Tony d'Arbon FMS, for this professional report but thanks also go to all who participated in the research with Andy, health care professionals, experienced religious leaders, and, not least, our confreres.

The challenge for us now is to do the implementation. We all easily recognize the sound common sense in the recommendations. The task before us is to see what recommendations can be accomplished; in what time frame; and by whom? To enact the planning suggested by the review is going to require cooperation from us all.

Celebrations

Important events which occurred in the last two months that deserve to be noted briefly were, our sesquicentenary celebrations at St Pat's; the Colin book launch; and the honouring our jubilarians.

Congratulations to Michael Whelan and his team for organizing the celebrations which marked 150 years Marists have been entrusted with the pastoral care of parish of St Patrick's.

The Marist dinner with the community and the public Mass celebrated by Archbishop Fisher, OP, were wonderful occasions fittingly shared with us by Marists from outside the province.

We recognize it is only in the last 80 years that Australian Marists have been responsible for St Pat's. Before that St Pat's was a work of our New Zealand confreres, and before that the Oceania confreres, the first Marist custodians of this ministry, to whom the parish was entrusted in 1868.

With the celebrations duly marked



Aussies at ARC, Rome



Provincial Assembly

the whole province is now solidly and prayerfully behind Michael and the international team as they see how St Pat's can maintain its relevance in a rapidly changing Church and society.

Colin biography

The launch of the biography of our founder Fr Colin, *Jean Claude Colin: Reluctant Founder*, by our Marist historian and scholar Justin Taylor, at Villa Maria on 21st Sept, was a great occasion. Listening to Justin speak would have been worth an admission on its own.

One confrere, who could never be referred to as a weakling by any stretch of the imagination, confessed that he tried to read Justin's book in bed but didn't have the strength to hold it up! It is recommended that you read this biography you do it sitting at your desk or a table.

The whole Society is tremendously grateful to Justin for this work. Jokingly it has been suggested that this large tome can make a good door stop. It must be much more important for us than that.

It will certainly give us a much deeper knowledge of our founder and what he has to teach us and this in turn will enrich our love and appreciation of this Society. This writing is of vital importance for all of us.

Another thing that all in the province are

being invited to be involved with over the next couple of months will be a review of "Cars" as they are used in the province. This is just another area we have let things slip and we now find ourselves in a situation that is quite unfair, inefficient, and unnecessarily expensive.

Welcome

Finally, a very warm welcome home is extended to Tony Corcoran after twelve years serving the Society in Rome. We appreciate very much his great generosity in being willing to take on the leadership of our province from the beginning of next year and hope that over the next two months he has a gentle re-entry into Oz as he re-connects with family, confreres and friends.

Fraternally

Bob Barber sm
Provincial



Provincial Diary

4-9 November

Provincial Retreat, Brisbane

(8-16 November

Andrew Biddle on leave)

13 November

Redress Scheme Workshop, Sydney

19-20 November

Provincial Council Meeting

25 November

Farewell Mass for Paul Pidcock, Woodlawn

25 November

Mass for Deceased, Holy Spirit College, Bellambi

4 December

Province Finance Committee Meeting

6 December

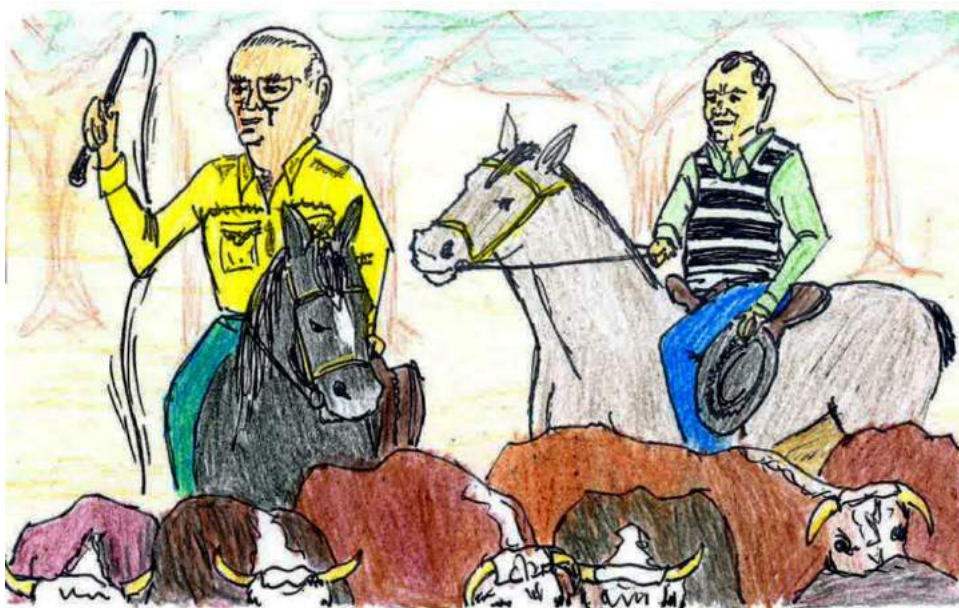
Province Professional Standards Panel

18 December

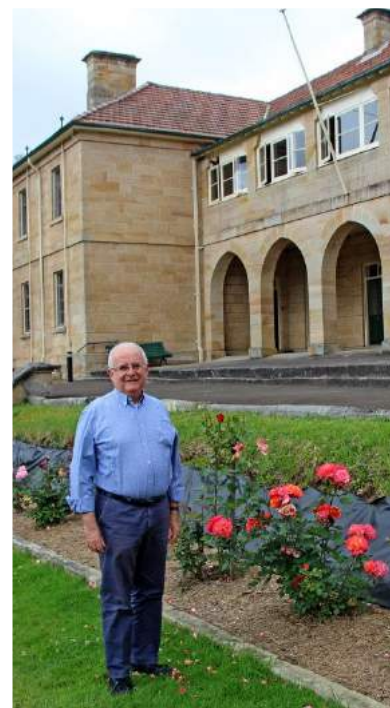
Provincial Council Meeting

22 Dec – 3 Jan, 2019

Provincial Office closed



New droving team of CORKY 'n MAC for PROVINCIAL MOTORS INC. to move Austprov steers along the long paddock from 2019



Appointments

Aliki Langi appointed from 1/11/2018 for three years as assistant priest in Hunters Hill parish.

A number of leadership and committee roles are due for appointment/reappointment by the end of the year. Consultations are currently taking place with a view to most of the appointments being finalised at the November Council meeting.

Personnel

Brian Wilson officially became a member of Australian Province on 1/10/2018 and continues as a member of the Villa Maria community, where his promotion of the "Can You Bear It" column in the *Marist Messenger* is a monthly community highlight.

Hayden Kennedy will return to Brisbane shortly following his withdrawal from the formation programme in Auckland at the end of this year. We wish Hayden every blessing in the years ahead.

Pius Jones will complete his time at St Theresa's College, Abergowrie, at the end of this year. In 2019 he has asked permission to take up a position as Assistant Principal, Head of Boarding, at St Brendan's College at Yeppoon, near Rockhampton. St Brendan's is a Y 7-12 school with boarding capacity. The boarding component is not as large as at Abergowrie, but there is a challenge to lift the overall standard of boarding life at the school.

Paul Glynn is visiting Japan in early November to mark the 50th anniversary of the Tomigaoka parish church in Nara. Syd Nugent was responsible for the initial building on the site, a two-story kindergarten which opened in 1968, but which was also used initially as a Mass center until a proper church could be constructed. Later, Tony Glynn took responsibility for Tomigaoka

and built the present church in 1973.

Willy Melteras was given a splendid send-off from Hunters Hill parish on the evening of Friday, 12 October, in the parish hall. Willy is now residing at Villa Maria, pending a new assignment.

Aliki Langi is the new assistant priest at Hunters Hill and moved into the presbytery on 25 October. Aliki has returned from a period of sabbatical/renewal, spent substantially in Jerusalem.

Gerry Arbuckle gave the keynote address at the recent Catholic Health Australia conference in Melbourne, where he suggested that so much change is taking place in Catholic healthcare that a "refounding" is required based on Gospel values and the person of Jesus Christ.

Kevin Jackson was officially farewelled from Woodlawn on Saturday 27 October and will be moving down to Sydney soon to join the Maryvale/Montbel community. Terry Garrett was able to travel from Sydney for the event, and Bob Barber attended from Currumbin.

Peter McMurrich presented a paper to the October meeting of the Australian Catholic Historical Society entitled "Their Eminences, an *eminence grise*, and Some Ruffled Feathers: the sometimes-rocky voyage of St Patrick's, Church Hill, within the archdiocese of Sydney, 1869-1959". The Catholic Historical Society meets monthly in the crypt at St Patrick's.

Tony Corcoran returned to Australia on the morning of October 23 and passed speedily through immigration and customs in less than 30 minutes, causing him to remark, "What efficiency!" Some of the gloss may have now gone off his initial experience as he battles with various Government departments and other organisations to renew his licence, obtain a Working with Children Check, and establish his Medicare and health insurance

entitlements.

Jack Soulsby moved to Holy Spirit aged care at Castledine in Brisbane on 10 October. He is in the St Joseph's wing which he shares with several other priests and a retired bishop. His phone number is 07 3263 0390.

Deaths

Fr Pierre Chabanet sm, d.17.8.2018, Genis-Laval, France

Fr Pedro Kerrasti sm, d.30.9.2018, Mexico DF, Mexico.

Fr Herman Kloosterman sm, d.6.10.2018, Raalte, Netherlands
Fr Herman-Joseph Zumsande sm, d.14.10.2018, Furstenzell, Germany
Fr Cleophas Waisu sm, d.19.10.2018, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Tony Austin, brother of Chris, died at Hastings (NZ) on Friday 31 August.

Louis Rego, uncle of Michael, was buried from Mary Immaculate church, Eaglevale, in the Wollongong diocese, on Friday 14 September. He was aged 91.

Marcia Southwell, sister of Bernie McFadyen, died at Coffs Harbour on 27 September; the Funeral Mass was held at St Augustine's, Coffs Harbour, on Thursday 4 October.

Sick

Chris Austin was admitted at Royal North Shore Hospital on 10 October with respiratory and kidney issues; he responded well to treatment and was able to return to Maryvale/Montbel on 29 October.

News

Paul Pidcock will be farewelled from Woodlawn on Sunday 25 November. There will be an 11am Mass in the college chapel, and then a presentation in the Colin Centre, followed by refreshments. Accommodation can be provided.

To book for the event you can go to



Above: Confreres' dinner at St Patrick's for the 150th celebrations of Marist presence. Below: Archbishop Fisher and entourage smile for the camera after the commemorative Mass.



the College website Home Page, then to "News and Events", then "Latest News", then "Latest Newsletter" (top right), where you will be able to register your attendance. But it would maybe be easier to simply phone the college on 02 6626 2600. You need to do that by 5 November.

Ian Douglas' name will be readily recognizable to older confreres but maybe not so much for baby boomers and beyond. Ian was an ordained member of the Province who left the Society in the 1950s during the Provincialate of James Harcombe. On a visit to Sydney from Adelaide he recently paid a visit with his wife Helen to Maryvale/Montbel, where he enjoyed catching up with

former confreres and particularly with John Thornhill and Paul Glynn.

St Patrick's Marist Sesquicentenary:

On Sunday, 16 September, St Patrick's celebrated 150 years of Marist stewardship with a moving and spectacular Mass celebrated by the archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher, who also preached.

The Provincials of Oceania and New Zealand were also in attendance, an acknowledgement that from 1868-1926 St Patrick's was under the care of the Oceania Province, and from 1927-38 it was a work of the New Zealand Province.

A highlight of the Mass was the music provided by an augmented St

Patrick's choir, accompanied by a string and brass orchestra.

Provincial Assembly: from 25-27 September, 40 members of the Province gathered at Hunters Hill for a Province Assembly to reflect on our response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse.

Prominent speakers were Justice Neville Owen, chairman of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council and latterly an appointee to the Papal Commission for the Protection of Minors; and Kathleen McCormack, former Director of CatholicCare (Wollongong), and only recently retired from the Papal Commission.

Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner: The Mass and Dinner were held on the night of September 27 at Hunters Hill in conjunction with the Province Assembly.

Paul Pearce, celebrating his 25th jubilee of ordination, was the principal celebrant for the Mass, and Kevin Stewart preached.

Once again, Montbel proved an excellent venue for the dinner, where Gavin Foster kept things moving as MC, and Gerard Hall proposed the toast to the jubilarians. Stephen Truscott responded on their behalf.

Aged Care Review: on 31 August Andrew Murray presented his report to the Provincial Administration and the Province, *Care of the Aged: A Review of Health and Ageing in the Australian province of the Society of Mary*.



Gerry Hall speaking at the Jubilarians' dinner, Montbel

All confreres should now have either an electronic copy or a paper copy, or both. The recommendations will now be considered by the Provincial Council with a view to their implementation.

Publications

Br Lawrence Hampton, *A Walk Down Memory Lane*, edited by Stephanie Ross, 2018, emp3books, Norwood House, Elvetham Road, Fleet, GU51 4HL. Lawrence's life story, together with many photographs, and reproductions of many of Lawrence's paintings.

Daniel J. Fleming and Thomas Ryan, 'Witness, Pedagogy of Grace and Moral Development', *The Australasian Catholic Record* 95:3 (July) 2018, 259-272.

Gerry Arbuckle's latest book – *Loneliness: Insights for Healing in a Fragmented World* – has been published by Orbis Books, New York. It is available through Amazon, Book Depository and Kindle. The theme is particularly relevant today and is now frequently referred to in the media.

Kevin Bates has just published *Glimmers of Grace*, 2018 Holy Name of Mary Parish, Hunters Hill, an edited collection of Kev's much-admired weekly reflections which have appeared over the years in the Hunters Hill parish Newsletter. A link on the Provincial Website enables you to order copies of the book. It is keenly priced at \$30.

An official launch will take place at the Hunters Hill Club on November 27, 6.30-9.30pm, and again the link

on the Province Website provides an opportunity to RSVP for the launch.

The Province's order for copies of **Jean-Claude Colin, *Reluctant Founder***, Justin Taylor's long-anticipated biography of the Founder, arrived with a thud at the Provincial Offices on October 23.

Copies have now been distributed to most confreres who ordered a copy, but a few copies are still awaiting delivery or collection. A circuit message which went out on October 25 gave an update on where the distribution process was at for each person who had a copy on order.

The book was formally launched in Australia at a book-launch at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill, attended by the publisher Hilary Regan (ATP); Tom Ryan and Justin Taylor spoke about the biography: its significance, and its journey from conception to completion.

Advertising

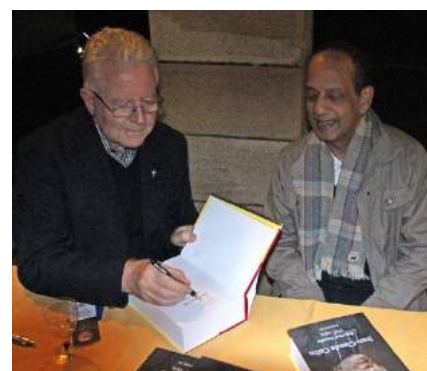
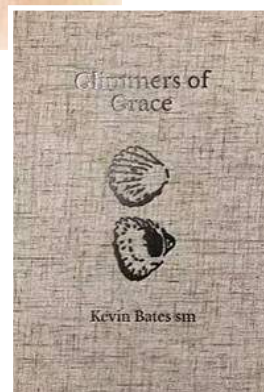
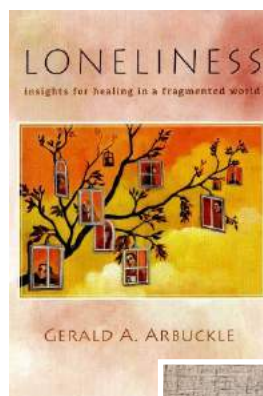
NSW Working with Children Check:

As of 15 June 2018, there have been important legal changes to the Working With Children Check (WWCC). In particular, everyone who holds a Check is now legally required to up-date their contact details, including any name or address changes, within three months – just like your driver licence.

And like your licence, penalties will apply for people who don't update. Updating your details is simple – go to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check and follow the directions. Special Headings

Provincial Directory

Jack Soulsby: Please note new phone and email details – 07 3263 0390 and pjsoulsby@bigpond.com



Colin biography launch at Villa Maria, with Sr Noelene Simmons SM as M.C.



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:

Nov 9-17

Tom Ryan

Nov 18-26

Peter McMurrich (family)

Dec 6-12: Fr Mark Walls sm and team conducting the Marist Youth Leaders camp at Woodlawn. All upstairs area is booked – not the flat.

Dec 9-13

Gavin Foster

Dec 14-28

Peter McMurrich (family)

2019

Dec 29-Jan 14

Michael Carroll

Jan 15-Feb 7

Peter McMurrich

Feb 8-22

Provincial Administration

Feb 23-March 3

Jim Hargrave

For the remainder of March and for April, bookings on the flat are currently suspended,

however, if you are interested in booking during this period please contact the Vicar Provincial and he will put you on a reserve list and your booking will be confirmed as soon as possible.

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

Top Right: At the ARC meeting in Rome Assistant-General, **Ben McKenna**, presents a proposal from our province JPIC Committee (supported by the Marist Family JPICC) for an ‘International Marist awareness and networking’ project, modelled on the Inner-City ministry blog of recent years, but using additional social media platforms.

Far right: **Bridge Program** and **ACU** graduates, **James Brangnu** and **Dingo Keidar**, Skyping from their Bangkok digs near the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce where they are studying International Business Administration. Their living costs and some fees are supported by BP friends.

Marist Province of Australia
Committee for
Justice, Peace &
Integrity of Creation



International Marist
awareness and
networking



And also...



Clockwise from top right: Holy Name of Mary feast day Mass in Villa Maria grounds | **Tom Ryan** introducing **Justin Taylor** at the Colin biography launch | Final profession of **Kenneth Ngong Akua** at Monteverde | Seminarians, **Samu Tukidia** and **Ben D'Souza** with **Jim Esler** at Marsfield | Jubilarians, **Steve Truscott**, **Paul Pearce**, **Gerry Arbuckle** and **Kevin Stewart** | **Br Colin Campbell's** secret of the years: porridge!

