



Dear Confreres

At the beginning of August, I sent to all confreres of the Province a paper entitled, RECONFIGURATION IS BACK ... The purpose of the paper was to animate some discussion among the members of our Province on the important matter of our future structures in the Society. So far, except for the couple of confreres who have offered a personal "thanks for writing it" comment, the paper has generated very little discussion.

It has only been a short space of time, so I see no problem that there has been little reaction so far, but we should be alarmed if by early 2015 we are not hearing many voices of support and opposition from around the traps and the debate heats up.

We are older and quite naturally, having lost some of our passion, must expect that we will be more subdued in all sorts of areas of our life, but we must not become so passive and unwilling to get involved that something we may not favour can slip under our guard.

Using our voice

We cannot allow the comment that we will get 'reconfiguration by stealth' to have any validity. We must all help determine our future by using our voice.

Our Province has never been a group where trying to get in the backseat and avoid the action has been the norm.

We are no different today than twenty and more years ago when we were prepared to have a go at any challenge that came our way.

But today, because of our situation, we have to be realistic about what individually and as a group we are able to achieve.

Things from the past

A week or two back, one morning when I was enjoying some minutes of quiet time before the hustle and bustle of the day took over, I was aware that I had spent quite some time engrossed in things from the past. I was remembering older confreres - including blokes now struggling with age and health issues, and also some who had died in recent years - as they were in their heyday. It was a positive reflection.

I recalled there were some confreres who have brought us shame but mostly I was recalling lives of great

men. Apart from my own memories I recalled stories told about them.

To sit quietly and pray

Some of them we have referred to as "the giants", but if we reflect a tad on our Marist history in this land, that group is not such a small group, it is huge containing many confreres. It is a great exercise to sit quietly and pray for our brothers. It is guaranteed to give one an uplifting feeling of tremendous gratitude to God.

Yes, we can be proud of our group. Harry Moore is well remembered for a line he said of another Marist province when he told them they were "a bunch of very talented blokes doing sweet-bugger-all". That is a good measure of whether you



are cutting it or not. There are certainly times in some sub-groups of our Province when this could have been said of us and we would have to own it, but for the most part it would have been rare that it was said of us.

The list could go on

Mostly we have been judged very well. We ran good schools, our parishioners noted something distinctive about us and were pleased to have us as their parish clergy, Aquinas Academy and CTU did fantastic jobs, St Pat's..... The list could go on.

It would be a terrible situation if we had to admit of ourselves that Harry's comment could in any sense apply to us today. We have to keep working at being good Marists.

Marist brand appreciated

In many, if not most cases, we Marists are remembered because we have been part of the group mis-sioning together. Our Marist brand is usually seen and appreciated when we are in corporate works. Without devaluing the great mission done by men in individual apostolates, all of us, still involved in part-time or full-time ministry, need to be encouraged to see if we are in any way able to do 'our thing' within the team context.

Some confreres in the past certainly had bad experiences living in big teams, such as colleges, where they felt they were not able to blossom. When we were hit by a movement



towards individualism that infected our Province a couple of decades ago, a number of confreres went out on their own.

Uncertain time, new beginnings

It isn't always easy to live and work with others but as we come into this uncertain time and new beginnings I encourage us to give it a go, and see if we can work and live more in groups.

We don't have to get trapped into living and working spaces that are going to stifle us. Let us see if we cannot give-and-take a bit more with others whom we want to live and work with.

Fraternally

Bob Barber SM
Provincial



Provincial Diary

2 Sep Finance Committee Meeting

4 Sep Towards Healing Meeting, Mascot (Vicar Provincial)

7-12 Sep Provincial Retreat, Mittagong

16 Sep Provincial Council Meeting

17 Sep Holy Spirit Bellambi Year 12 Graduation Mass

30 Sep-13 Oct ARC Meeting, Rome

8 Oct Marist Family Leaders' Meeting, Drummoyne (Vicar Provincial)

16 Oct Professional Standards Training Day, Mascot (Provincial)

17 Oct Towards Healing Training Day, Mascot (Vicar Provincial)

17 Oct Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner, Hunters Hill

Appointments

Garry Reynolds appointed vice-superior for St Patrick's community for a period of three years as from 1 Sep, 2014.

Personnel

Andrew Murray has been appointed by the General Administration (along with Columban, Noel Connolly) to prepare a report on the Marist international formation programme for presentation to ARC 2015.

Terry Garrett left Sydney on 17 Aug for a period of renewal, and will be away until 22 Oct. He will be doing the *In the Footsteps of St Paul* programme through Greece and Turkey; a retreat in Belgium; and visiting Marist communities in Holland, London, and Rome.

Ron Nissen returned to Sydney on 20 Aug after a number of weeks in France and Rome gathering material in relation to the cause of the Founder.

For some of this period Ron was assisted in video work by Hunters Hill parishioner **Nicholas Fearnley**.



Jim Esler recently encountered a stranger in the chapel area at Montbel. The man told Jim he was looking for John McMillan whom he had visited only 3 days earlier. Jim expressed some surprise at this claim, pointing out that John McMillan has been dead for some time. The man acknowledged that Jim had caught him out lying, and asked Jim if he could go to confession. Jim declined the request on the grounds that he would then be precluded by the seal of confession from reporting the incident. The intruder then walked off.

Michael Jacques is astute at reading the signs of the times, and as soon as the fierce August sun began to

shimmer over Tokyo Bay, he commenced his annual pilgrimage to Australia. It was good to see him again, and we wish him a smooth commencement for the new academic year.

Tony Corcoran will be back in Australia for annual leave during November. We wish him a warm "welcome home".

Deaths

Frank Callanan was admitted to Royal North Shore hospital on 14 Aug and died there on 22 Aug. His Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for Wed, 27 Aug at Holy Name of Mary Church, Hunters Hill, with burial afterwards in the Villa Maria cemetery.

Fr Bernhard Zumsande sm, d.18.7.14, Meppen, Germany

Fr Philip King-Turner sm, d.23.7.2014, Greymouth, NZ

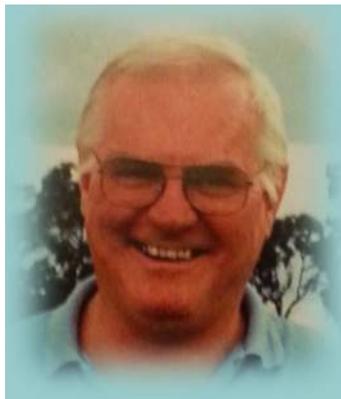
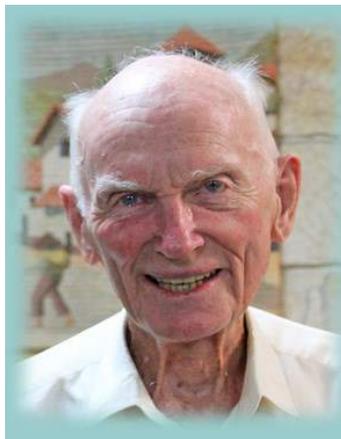
Fr Dennis Scully sm, d.30/7/2014, Silverstream, NZ

Terry Kelly died in hospital in Bendigo, Vic., on 11 Jul, and was buried from St Kilian's church in Bendigo on Jul 18. Jim Carty was the celebrant, and Peter McMurrich also went down to Victoria for the funeral. Terry was well known in the parish, where he was in charge of the choir.

Barbara Redmond, sister of Kevin, died suddenly in hospital in Melbourne on 4 Aug. Bob Barber and Ray Chapman joined Kevin and Burnie parish priest John Girdeuskas for the Funeral Liturgy on Aug 13 at Star of the Sea Church, Burnie, Tas.

Liam O'Reilly was an Irish Marist who joined the Oceania Province and at one time was a regional superior in the Solomons. Liam subsequently left the Society, married, and settled in Brisbane. John Begg visited Liam in hospital in his last days and was present at his funeral in Brisbane on 18 Jul.

Walter Melteras, brother of Willy, died suddenly on 8 Jul in Vanuatu.



Frank Callanan & Terry Kelly

He was buried the following day. Willy was able to spend some time with his family immediately after his brother's death.

Sick

Jim Esler had prostate surgery on 21 Jul at Macquarie Hospital at Ryde.

Mika Cilicewa had ankle surgery on 30 Jul at the Mater Hospital, North Sydney, and is now back at Maryvale/Montbel.

Jim Harding remains in St Vincent's Private hospital, but is reasonably confident that his neck wound is finally on the mend.

Kevin Kerley had a fall in the dining room at Villa Maria on 8 Jul and had several days in Royal North Shore hospital for tests. The cause was identified as low blood pressure.

Jack Soulsby was admitted to the Dermatology Ward at Royal Brisbane Hospital on 20 Aug with a serious skin infection and pronounced swelling in legs and feet. He is expecting to be in hospital for around 10 days.

News

Provincial Retreat, Mittagong, 7-12 September. Twelve confreres have booked for this retreat which will be led by Br Bob O'Connor fms. A second Provincial retreat, based at Maryvale/Montbel, is scheduled for 28 Sep until 3 Oct. About 5 or 6 non-Maryvale/Montbel residents have signed up for this retreat, and each should have received an acknowledgement and confirmation by now.

Paul Pidcock Performing Arts Centre: Paul Pidcock's contribution to music and drama at St John's College, Lismore, is receiving appropriate recognition in the naming of the new Performing Arts Centre. The official opening will occur on Friday 10 Oct. The new building is built on the site of an earlier building which housed the college bakery in the 1950s, and the foyer of the new building will feature a period photo of Br Brendan O'Connell hard at work producing the daily bread, and a re-creation of the original brick oven. It's often said that bakers jealously guard their bread recipes, and only share them on a knead-to-know basis.



The St Patrick's Ministry Committee was established earlier in the year, along with parallel committees to look at The Marist Mission Centre, and the Hunters Hill site. The three committees are a follow-up to the last Chapter designating these areas as Province priorities. Enclosed is a report from the St Patrick's Committee with details of how it is presently proceeding.

Spirituality & Lifestyle Programme: The final S&L programme scheduled for Villa Maria will commence there on Sunday 5 Oct, and will conclude on 10 Dec. Paul Sullivan will again direct the programme.

White Rabbit Still Calls Hunters Hill Home. The white rabbit which featured in the May edition of the Provincial Circular has defied the odds and escaped the attention of predators and well-meaning but over-enthusiastic confreres. Readers will recall that it first appeared around Easter time, and for the last four and a half months it has been roaming across the expanses of our Hunters Hill property.

Paul Glynn seems to have abandoned his attempts to speak to it in Japanese. The rabbit is very tame and holds no fear of humans, a disposition which may lead to its downfall if Tom Fulcher confirms his suspicions that the rabbit is nibbling his plants.

Light My Fire. On August 6 some piles of woodchips which had been deposited down the back of the Villa Maria property, following the felling of some dead trees, began smoldering and sending up tell-tale puffs of white smoke. The local fire brigade and a Hunters Hill Council bobcat were quickly on the scene and spent several hours trying to locate the seat of the fire. Source of the ignition was most likely an elaborate camp-fire constructed only a meter from the woodchips, which seems to have been constructed and used by someone during the previous 48 hours. Who? and why? are questions to which we don't have an answer. After the brigade had departed the smoke started billowing forth again, and further remedial work was needed the following day to completely extinguish the fire.

MAP Skype Meeting: at this year's MAP meeting in Davao in June a Skype meeting was organised for the



Provincials and Vicars for Thursday 21 August, to set two priority ministries for the Asia-Pacific region. Each



Province or District had previously been asked by the General Administration to nominate one priority ministry: New Zealand chose Whangarei parish; the Asian District nominated the Marist project at Ranong; Oceania nominated the project at Tutu; Australia nominated St Patrick's, Church Hill. The Skype meeting was scheduled to choose two of these as the priority ministries for the Asia-Pacific region, and the decision will be communicated to the General Administration.

Provincial Assembly 2015: There will be an Assembly of the Province next year leading in to the Provincial Chapter scheduled for 2016. Tentative dates for the Assembly are 27, 28, & 29 of October, 2015, with the venue most likely being the Hunters Hill Parish Hall.

Publications

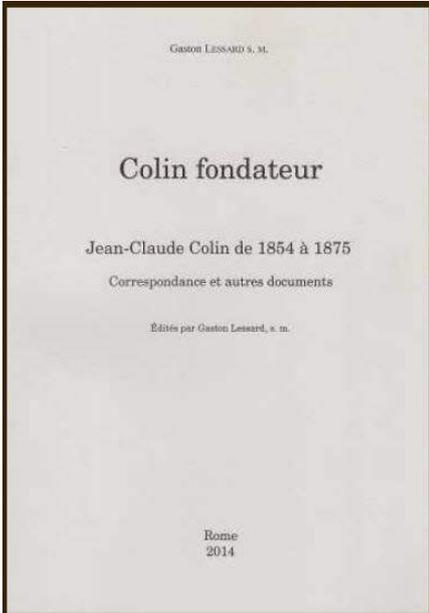
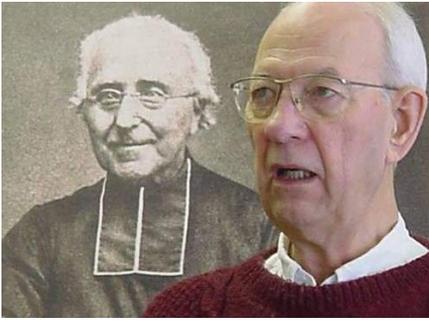
Gaston Lessard sm (ed), Colin fondateur: Jean-Claude Colin de 1854 a 1875, Correspondence et autres documents, Rome, 2014.

Several copies of this impressive 600+ page tome arrived safely at the Provincial office a couple of weeks back.

Obviously it's primarily an important resource for scholars, but if any confrere has a refined taste in bedside reading you can borrow a copy and work your way through.

Given that it's all in the original French, an ability to read French would be a distinct advantage.





Advertising

St Vincent's Lismore Chaplaincy: we have had an informal approach from St Vincent's hospital at Lismore as to whether we might have a priest to follow in the footsteps of Tom Maloney. For further information, please contact Bob Barber.

Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner this year is on Friday 17 Oct. Acceptances were due at the end of August and we might just be able to sneak in one or two more; but be quick! We currently have acceptances from the following confreres: Arbuckle, G; Austin, C; Barber, R; Bates, K; Campbell, C; Ferguson, G; Foster, G; Fulcher, T; Glynn, P; Kerley, K; Kervin, P; King, A; McFadyen, B; McMurrich, P; Murray, A; Nugent, S; Randle, C; Reynolds, G; Ryder, W; Somers, P; Sullivan, P; Thornhill, J; Whelan, M; Wilson, D. In addition, confreres participating in the S&L programme will also be attending.

The Council discussed

- 2015 Provincial Assembly
- Personnel issues

- MAP issues
- Finances
- Professional Standards issues

Other Provinces

Ben McKenna has been re-elected as provincial of the Oceania Province with more than 2/3 of first preferences for a further period of three years. Our congratulations and best wishes to Ben.



Currumbin & Bilgola 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:

- Sep 01-07:** Tom Ryan
- Sep 16-30:** Peter McMurrich
- Nov 04-24:** Tom Fulcher
- Dec 14-31:** Jim Hargrave
- Jan 01-14:** Michael Carroll
- Jan 15-Feb 15:** Tom Ryan
- Jul 03-31:** Bob Barber
- Sep 14-30:** Peter McMurrich
- Oct 01-31:** Ray Chapman

In addition Michael Whelan, Kevin Bates, and John Worthington will be upstairs 17-19 Jan 2015 celebrating their 50th anniversary of Marist life. Confreres are advised to give them a wide berth.

The self-contained flat at **Bilgola** is available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, a retreat, or an extended period of study. Bookings are made through the provincial office.

Current bookings:

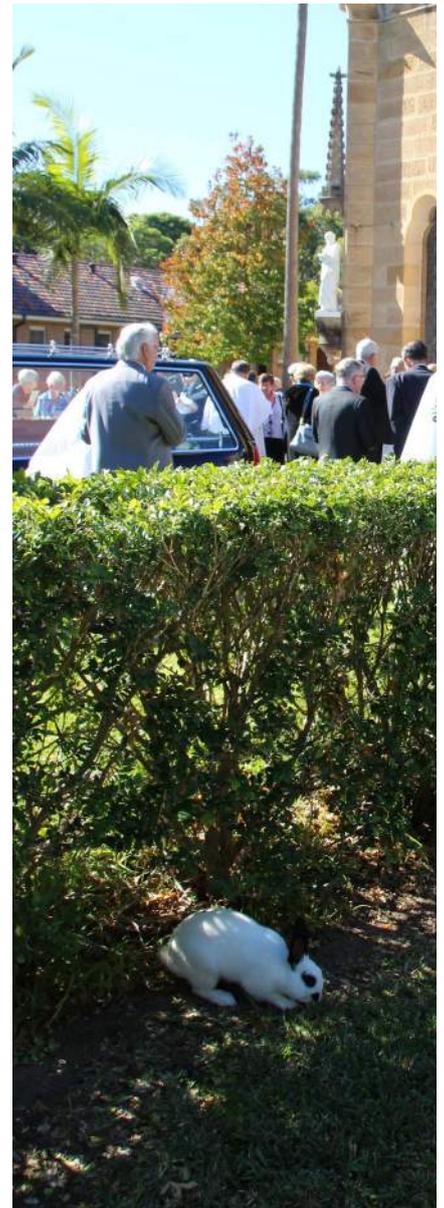
- Sep 05-08:** (whole of Bilgola) Marist Mission Centre
- Oct 01-10:** Ray Chapman
- Jan 01-31, 2015:** Ray Chapman

A decision has been made to sell Bilgola and we are currently doing some preliminary work as to the best way to do this and establishing the most opportune selling window.

We will continue to take bookings for the flat, but on the understanding that at some point, probably early next year, the property will be on the market.

Enclosures

- St Patrick's Study Committee
- Office for Clergy Life and Ministry: Info Bulletin, Aug 2014



JPICC Corner

*Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace
and Integrity of Creation*

Hats off to Jim Carty for his stoic and relentless efforts towards the combined Marist J&P event this year — and in 2016.

Jim has raised awareness in the joint Marist J&P committee of the con-

trast in how Australasians celebrate their wartime efforts 100 years ago yet allow the 'forgotten wars' against indigenous peoples to remain forgotten.

After months of courteous, tenacious negotiations (and scores of emails amongst committee members) Jim advises that indigenous Professor Henry Reynolds will be available for the Aug 2016 event. Well done, Jim.



Camphor laurels at Villa Maria

