



## Provincial Circular No.2 Apr 2015

### From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

Over the last few months, with the approach of the centenary anniversary of the landing of the Australian, NZ, and British forces at Gallipoli, our media became saturated with all manner of programs and features to do with this most important event in our nation's history.

It was easy to be put off by a commercialism that began to creep into the competition between TV and print-media networks as they fought to get our attention and present us with material aimed at helping us appreciate what the Anzac event has come to mean in our history.

However, when Anzac day actually came around and we got caught up in the march or some ceremony of

remembrance it was hard not to be moved.

#### **Courage**

This year in attempting to identify what was touching me as I participated in the Anzac event I found myself thinking about "courage".

At other times Anzac would mean other things but this year Anzac symbolized courage.

Dwelling on this I was conscious that the men and women from our nation and from other lands who were prepared to become involved in armed conflict in the interest of their nation, to the possible extent of losing their own life, have shown great courage.

Easter does the same thing in the Church. As we read through the Acts in our liturgy during this Pascal

period we cannot help but be hit by the courage of those first Christians standing up for their faith.

The presence of the Risen Jesus was strong enough for men and women of the early Church to display the courage that led to martyrdom.

Many diggers didn't die and not all followers of Christ are called to be martyrs but it is obvious that being a soldier or being a Christian demands that one is being "courageous".

People show courage in all sorts of ways and it is a virtue that all of us must try to possess and live out where we can.

#### **Inertia**

Over a number of years, but especially over the last few, the inertia of our province has been very noticeable.

Arguably one of the few areas where we moved ahead in any significant way in recent years was in the building of Montbel and in the caring for our older confreres, and even this has received a lot of criticism.

It is not hard to draw up a long list of recent projects and initiatives that have died because there is a lack of enthusiasm in our group.

We have to be courageous and see this change!

What is happening with our prioritized ministries from the last Chapter?



For example, do we as a group really want to see St Patrick's flourishing as a Marist mission in Australia?

There are not a lot of visible indications at the grass roots level showing that we have a greater commitment to this ministry since 2009.

There are a lot of men saying that they realise reconfiguration with NZ will probably go ahead but it won't mean much change in the lives of most confreres.

There are others indicating that they will throw out the anchors and stop reconfiguration because it won't change anything, we are just going to die out anyway.

This is all very negative and drains the enthusiasm that some in the province have.

As an equation, a lack of energy and enthusiasm is not equal to a lack of courage but it certainly is a big factor.

#### **Looking for ways**

The challenge is for us be courageous men, enthusiastic and looking for ways to give life to our province.

There are plenty of ways for us to do this.

We will find them if we just keep asking ourselves, "am I being positive and showing courage here" or "am I just throwing out the anchors and making life comfortable for myself"?

The confreres on the preparatory committee for our Assembly from 27 – 29<sup>th</sup> Oct are coming up with what looks to be a good program with some interesting initiatives.

As there are not going to be such things as regional meetings prior to the Assembly over the next couple of months we have to get out there to publicise and discuss such things as our prioritized ministries and re-configuration with New Zealand.

I will do my bit by sending around

something to provoke discussion soon.

Honestly, we need to get involved in animated discussion in all these areas over the next few months. Not to do so will mean that we just fizzle out.

When we come to the Chapter next year we will be older men who maybe are not able to "do" a lot these days, but hopefully we are still young in outlook and are courageous men willing to make the little sacrifices we can, to ensure that our Marist life keeps flourishing wherever it exists.

Faternally

**Bob Barber sm**



## **Provincial Diary**

- **5 May, 2-4pm**  
Assembly Preparatory Committee
- **6 May, 10am-12.30pm**  
Province Professional Standards Panel
- **11-12 May**  
Provincial Council Annual Review Meeting, Currumbin; and meeting with Brisbane Marists
- **17-23 May**  
Visitation Oscar Ichiba and Michael Jacques
- **26 May, 9.30-11.30am**  
Province Finance Committee
- **7 June, 2pm**  
Marist Sisters Regional Gathering Mass, Woolwich
- **9 June**  
Provincial Council Meeting
- **16-18 June**  
MAP Annual Meeting, Suva

## **Appointments**



**Bob Barber:** Bob received 2/3 of the first preferences in the consultation for election/re-election for Provincial.

Accordingly, the Superior General has confirmed Bob as Provincial for a further three years as from 1/1/2016

**Peter McMurrich:** Following his re-election as Provincial, Bob Barber has confirmed Peter McMurrich in the role of Vicar Provincial for a further three years as from 1/1/2016.

**Michael Whelan:** nominated parish priest of St Patrick's, Church Hill, for three years as from 1/1/2016.

**Gerard Hall:** appointed Superior, Paddington community, for 12 months as from 1 April, 2015.

**John Worthington** appointed Superior, Herston community, for 3 years as from 1 April, 2015.

## **Personnel**

**Aliki Langi:** as of 21 March, Aliki has now become a permanent member of the Australian Province, following the expiration of the traditional 3 year transition period.

Aliki has been working in Gladstone parish since 2012.





**Stephen Truscott:** has left Australia to commence a period of renewal.

He began a programme at All Hallows, Dublin on 30/3/2015 which will run until 20/5/2015; later in the year he will be participating in an Ignatian 30 day retreat at Sevenhill (SA).

**Allan Connors:** moved to Montbel on 15 April.

His phone: 02 9844 2270.

**Brian Conaghan:** while recovering from his broken arm, Brian has been living at Montbel; it seems likely that he will make a permanent switch from Villa Maria to Montbel in the near future.

**Kevin Kerley:** Kevin has been preparing over recent months to make the move from Villa Maria to a higher level of care. A vacancy has suddenly come up at the Congregational Village, D'Arum Street, Hunters Hill, and Kevin has been accepted as a resident and has agreed to take up the offer.

From ANU's Research College of Pacific & Asian Studies, **Anthony Regan** paid a visit to **Kevin** over the

weekend of Apr 11-12, gleaning material for new research on the Bougainville conflict. Co-editor of *'Bougainville before the Conflict'*

Anthony has spent almost twenty years living in PNG and Bougainville and as a constitutional lawyer helped negotiate the Peace Agreement for Bougainville. He still advises the Bougainville Government.

**Fred Limeburner:** Fred's contact details at St Catherine's, Eastwood, are:

Bethany Lodge, Room 35  
St Catherine's Aged Care Services  
162 Balaclava Road  
Eastwood  
Direct phone: 02 8875 1335.

**Paul Glynn:** armed with a box of his popular books, Paul left for New Zealand on Apr 10 to participate in the Eucharistic Convention held in Auckland over the Divine Mercy weekend.

Paul presided and preached at two of the convention Masses, emphasising the relevance of Pope St John-Paul II's teaching and support of

Divine Mercy seer, St Faustina, and the need for deeper prayer and devotion in today's world.

**Mika Cilicewa:** left Sydney on Friday 17 April, to return to his native Fiji.

We thank Mika for the contribution he has made to the life of the Province, particularly through his participation in the aboriginal ministry team based at Macksville.

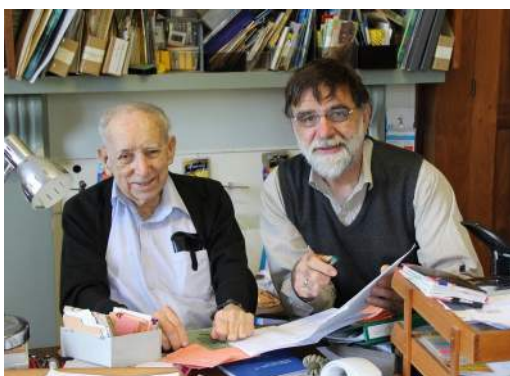
**Charlie Randle:** by the time this Provincial Circular hits the streets, Charlie will have taken up residence at his new community, Herston.

Charlie was farewelled by the Villa Maria community on April 16, and by the Hunters Hill parish community on April 19.

## Deaths

- **Fr Joseph Barbier sm**  
d.23.3.2015, Broons, France
- **Fr Jean-Claude Trottier sm**  
d.19.4.2015, Quebec, Canada.
- **Fr Gerard Dupont de Dinechin sm**  
d.20.4.2015, Toulon, France
- **Fr Roger Dumortier sm**  
(pictured below)  
d.26.4.2015, Paris, France.  
Fr Roger was superior-general, 1969-1977, after Fr Joe Buckley and before Fr Bernard Ryan.

**Dola Westaway:** Dola had a long association with St John's College, Lismore, as a member of the secretarial staff, and through her daughter



Left top: **Anthony Regan** with **Kevin Kerley**. Left lower: **Paul Glynn** with a box of his books en route to NZ. Below: **Br Mika** at his Montbel farewell.



ter, Julie Davis, who was the college's registered nurse for many years.

Dola died on April 16, and her funeral was on Monday, 20 April from Our Lady Help of Christians church, South Lismore.

Garry Reynolds, Gerard Hall, Lou Molloy, and Paul Pidcock were able to represent the Province at Dola's funeral.

**Joseph Girdauskas:** John Girdauskas' father, Joseph, died on 30 March, aged 93. His funeral was in Burnie on 9 April.

## Sick

**Kevin Jackson:** Kevin is making solid progress in recovering from his recent knee surgery.

He is able to get around with the help of a walking stick, but is still on regular medication for pain relief.

He will see his surgeon for a post operation check early in May.

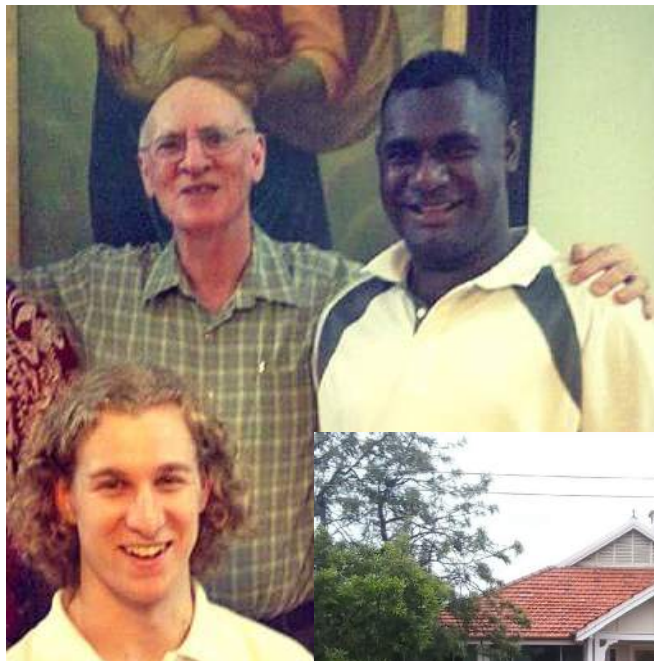
**Paul Pearce:** has resumed his ministry in Hunters Hill parish, and returned to the Villa Maria community following a period of time in March at St John of God hospital at Burwood.

## News

**RPD 25th Anniversary (1990-2015):** RPD marks a significant milestone this year, with Gerry Arbuckle and Michael Mullins clocking up 25 years of significant work in the Church and wider community.

In their most recent annual report to the 3 supporting Provinces, they review the work they have undertaken during a momentous and difficult period for the Church in Australia and throughout the world.

**Welcoming community blessed:** On April 11, with house-warming and blessing ceremonies, our new community - a house of welcome for Marists and interested aspirants - was established at Paddington, Bris-



*Left: Gerard Hall, Chris Ketsore and Hayden Kennedy. Below: Their Paddington (Brisbane) home. Further below: Gone to rabbit heaven.*



bane, Qld.

Gerard Hall and Chris Ketsore will be the core members of the community, along with our aspirant, Hayden Kennedy.

**More Rabbit News:** in the last Provincial Circular we confidently (and rashly!) asserted that steps had been taken to ensure that the white rabbit which has adopted the

grounds of Villa Maria as its home would no longer be able to procreate.

About three weeks later, no less than 8 little bunnies were observed at play in the grounds, and we once again had to call on the services of our resident rabbit whisperer, Willy Melteras, to apprehend the offspring.





Hopefully there will be no more litter in the grounds.

**Solar Heating:** last month solar heating panels were installed on the roofs of both Montbel and Maryvale, and are now converting free energy from the sun.

It is anticipated that the solar heating system will eventually cut our power bills by something like 1/3-1/2.

**John Thornhill book launch:** Members of the Marist Family and other friends gathered at Villa Maria monastery to support the book launch of John Thornhill's book, *'On the way with Pope Francis - our destination: a renewed church'*

The Apr 17 launch was led by Fr Martin Maunsell, parish priest of St Kevin's Eastwood, who highlighted John's insights into scripture, liturgy and the mind of Pope Francis.

## Advertising

**Overseas Medical Insurance:** just a reminder that the Province has a policy with CCI which gives medical coverage for members of the Province travelling overseas provided they are under 90 years of age when they travel.

However, please notify Andrew Biddle or Peter McMurrich at the Provincial Office any time you are leaving Australia, particularly if you will be away more than a month.

In this latter case it is worth our while saving a few dollars and sus-

pending your Bupa coverage until you return.

Also, depending on where you are going and for how long, it is worth considering also being a Smart Traveler and registering on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website, so that the Australian Government has your contact details in an emergency.

Finally, if you are overseas for more than a month, and your Bupa coverage has been suspended while you're away, **Andrew needs your return boarding pass to reactivate your Bupa coverage.**

**Valuations:** Shortly we will choose a tender to value all the properties owned by the Marist Fathers. The valuation process may take a few months to complete.

This is completed every 5 years and not only provides us with information for our insurance provider but also gives us accurate figures for our accounting.

A representative from the company employed to carry out the task will make contact with all our residences to make a mutually convenient time that they are able to inspect the property.

They may need access inside as well as outside the house. The company will have a letter of introduction on Marist Fathers letterhead. Thank you for your understanding in providing access to your home.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to

*Above left:* Montbel goes solar. *Above right:* Fr Martin Maunsell launches John Thornhill's book at Villa Maria.

contact Andrew Biddle.

**Rental Assistance:** Next week you will receive a new Authority and Direction and Tenancy Agreement to be **SIGNED AND DATED** by you to continue your eligibility to receive the rental assistance with your pension.

The new forms cover the three-year period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and have been prepared in accordance with the agreement between Centrelink and all Religious Institutions and indicate the new accommodation charge payable by the religious as \$650.00 per fortnight.

Please return the signed and dated form to Andrew Biddle as soon as possible so that he can present all eligible pensioner's agreements to Centrelink at the one time.

## Publications

**Gerry Arbuckle's** latest book has been published by Orbis Books, NY: *The Francis Factor and the People of God: New Life for the Church.*



Scripture scholar Walter Brueggemann writes: "This is a compelling pastoral meditation on loss and the capacity to begin again in new and generative ways. Arbuttle's model comes from pastoral practices of grief, mourning, loss and relinquishment of that which is over and failed; that relinquishment, modelled in ancient laments, permits fresh beginnings.

"He shrewdly transfers this pastoral truth to the death and new life of institutions, notably the church. Readers will gladly resonate with the 'Francis Factor', an allusion to Pope Francis and his remarkable capacity for genuine renewal of the church."

## Provincial Directory



**Fred Limeburner:** St Catherine's Aged Care Services in:  
Bethany Lodge, Room 35  
162 Balaclava Road, Eastwood  
Direct phone: 02 8875 1335.

*Postal Address*  
PO Box 111  
Eastwood, NSW, 2122

**Paddington Community:** the address for our new community is

358 Given Terrace  
Paddington, Qld 4064  
phone: 07 3217 6842

**Department of Stuff-Ups:** Michael Jacques' email address on page 16 of the Provincial Directory is incorrectly given as [j-michael@sophia.ac.jp](mailto:j-michael@sophia.ac.jp). The actual address is [j-michae@sophia.ac.jp](mailto:j-michae@sophia.ac.jp).

**Laurie Whiting:** new email address is [awriew1414@hotmail.com](mailto:awriew1414@hotmail.com)



**John Hopkinson:** new email address is [johnhopkinson@superheromail.com](mailto:johnhopkinson@superheromail.com)

## Advertising

**Passwords.** One particularly insidious aspect of modern life is the need to remember passwords and pin numbers.

So, wishing to be ever helpful, from time to time we publish the user names/passwords for access to the members-only sections of the General Administration and Australian Province websites:

**General Admin:**  
([www.maristsm.org](http://www.maristsm.org))  
sm/colin

**Australian Province:**  
([www.maristfathers.org.au](http://www.maristfathers.org.au))  
newsletter/colin or circular/colin  
(either combination works).

**Provincial Retreat:** Frank Devoy has agreed to lead this year's Province Retreat, set down for the Marist Brothers' Centre at Mittagong from Sunday 23 August until Friday 28 August.

Forms will be sent out shortly for those wishing to attend. In the meantime, if you're interested, mark the date in your diary.

**Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner:** will be held on the evening of Wednesday, 28 October, in conjunction with the Provincial Assembly.

The Assembly will run 27-28 October – just 2 days.



## Marist Family

**Marist Sisters International Leadership Team:** The Marist Sisters have elected Sr Grace Ellul as their new Superior General; her administrative team will be Sr Vivienne Goldstein (Aus), Sr Anne McCabe (UK), and Sr Sylvette Mané (Senegal).

**Marist Brothers:** the new Provincial, who will take over from Br Jeff Crowe later in the year, is Br Peter Carroll.

## Bilgola & Currumbin

### CURRUMBIN

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:

### 2015

- **May 1-9**  
Tom Ryan
- **May 10-14**  
Provincial Council: All Currumbin
- **July 3-31**  
Bob Barber
- **Oct 1-31**  
Ray Chapman
- **Nov 2-16**  
Tom Fulcher
- **Nov 17-30**  
Peter McMurrich
- **Dec 6-20**  
Jim Hargrave

**Use of 2 rooms Currumbin Upstairs May 1-9, 2015:**  
M.O'Connor & P. Carde



## 2016

Jan 1-31

Ray Chapman

### BILGOLA

**Protocols for Bilgola:** The following protocols are now in place:

That non-Marists should be invited to Bilgola only if the inviting Marist is present for the visit;

That the inviting Marist should discuss the visit beforehand with any Marists who are in residence;

That if any Marist wishes to use Bilgola for a weekend family get-together as has happened in the past, that the booking be made well in advance, allowing time for notifi-



cation to be made through the Provincial Circular and/or other means.

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 are:

There is currently only one booking during 2015 for the Bilgola flat:

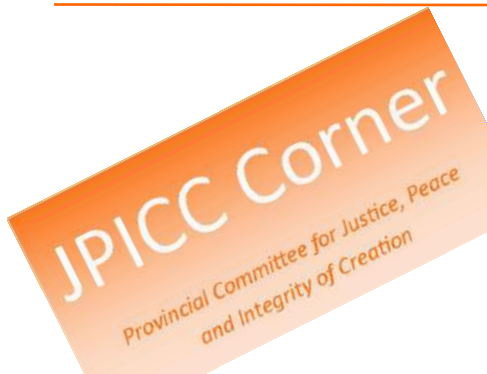
Dec 26-31

Michael Whelan

**On 29 Dec, 2015, Michael would like to invite family members to spend the day at Bilgola as envisaged in the guidelines outlined above.**

*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 during 2015 the property will be on the market.*



### 'Both ends of the gun— Australian Aboriginals at War'

Progress continues in the planning of this conference hosted by the combined Marist Family Justice & Peace group. Author, journalist and filmmaker, **Jeff McMullen**, will chair the Aug 29 event at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield, NSW.



*Above: Jeff McMullen with Br Paul Hough FMS. Left: Jim Carty discusses venue details with Margaret Molloy of Santa Sabina College. Below: The thirteen BP-ers awaiting ACU application tests.*

### BP-ers ready for ACU entrance tests

Thirteen young Burmese are now waiting for their entrance tests and interviews by Australian Catholic University to be held in mid-May.

They represent two groups from the 'Bridge Program' conducted online by **Ron Nissen** to prepare them for ACU's tertiary online program on the Thai-Burma border.

Five BP-ers from 2013 will graduate with a Liberal Arts diploma on May 23.

Other ACU students are hosted at the Marist Mission in Ranong, southern Thailand.

