



Provincial Circular No. 3 Jun 2015

From the provincial

Dear confreres,

The second half of 2015 has begun. Two of the more significant events in the life of our Province over the last six months include opening the new Community of Welcome in Brisbane, and working with the NZ Province on restructuring.

True blessing

I believe the erection of the Community of Welcome at Paddington has been a true blessing for the Province.

It enables us to see if we can do something about encouraging a young man who may have a future as a Marist priest or brother.

We need to be supportive of this venture and remain hopeful that it will bear fruit for us.

We know there won't be a tsunami of vocations but one or two young men attracted to the Society and

seeing himself/themselves called to be part of an international congregation would be a blessing.

Reconfiguration

Following the instruction from Dublin CS13, to work more closely with the NZ Marist Province, investigating how we go forward with a possible reconfiguration of the two provinces, a joint two-day meeting of the Australian and New Zealand provincial councils was held in Wellington in March.

Among other things, this initial meeting nominated a small committee to work on choosing important elements to be included in the 'framework' that would eventually be incorporated in a "model" of a new single province that would be proposed to the confreres of Australia and New Zealand for acceptance.

Recognition of the unique

Key elements we would expect to find in the 'framework' mentioned include:- ensuring there is recognition of the unique cultural, financial,

legal, and historical identity of the two Provinces; not forcing unwanted major changes on the lifestyle and circumstances of confreres, the majority of whom are elderly in both Provinces; seeing that our structural changes will facilitate the continuing our Marist mission within our prioritized works in a focussed way.

Working to have a future

Some confreres will be sceptical and not satisfied with the extent to which we will be able to achieve the ends mentioned as part of our 'framework' and they will ask why are we bothering to go ahead?

We won't get utopia, but that is no reason for us to fold our tents and stop working to have a future that continues to be mission oriented.

Assembly

We are holding an Assembly of the Province, at Hunters Hill, from 27th to 28th October.

The assembly preparatory committee is hard at work and, I believe, are on track to provide us with a good forum for our deliberations. Assemblies have been quite significant events in the Province over the last thirty years and we hope this one will be no different.

This gathering is not a Chapter, where decisions will be made, but it is an important occasion where we can exchange ideas and prepare ourselves for the Chapter in 2017.

Bleak aspects surround our future



and many problems confront us.

Being positive and having a go

We have to face these problematic situations by being positive and having a go.

Criticism and pointing out weakness in efforts being made is not a positive response to an obstacle, it just reinforces the situation and makes it worse.

Because one or two individuals do not agree with something does not prove the thing is wrong or bad and should be scrapped.

Status?

One reason why I am keen to see the Assembly and then Chapter come around and also to see us working towards reconfiguration is because I am certain that at some time during the next three years we will, either lose our Province status and become a District of the Society, or we will become part of a new Province where we are combined with NZ, and possibly the District of Asia.

We will not go into 2019 as we are currently structured. I am convinced of that.

Becoming a District of the Society recognizes that we cannot run ourselves as a Province.

Governance and control

As a result, parts of our governance and overall control will be managed by the General Administration or one of its members in way off Rome.

Many of us would wonder if this state of affairs is necessary and if it would be the best outcome for us.

The clear request of CS13 and earlier directives from the Society to ask New Zealand and Australia to work at restructuring ourselves into a single unit is, for me, definitely better than the alternatives, namely, to wind down and die without making any effort, or becoming a District run from far away.

Positively, I can see a future in re-configuring with New Zealand. Having Asia in there, if this happens, would be a bonus.

Marist Asia-Pacific

The MAP meeting in Suva earlier this month was again very successful. A report on what happened is supplied elsewhere.

Being able to meet with the same MAP confreres for a few years certainly has helped sharing and understanding within the group to develop.

Demographics

One of the realities that we kept coming back to during the MAP meeting was the age demographic within our units.

It is worth singling out this point because it has huge repercussions in our thinking about our future and reconfiguration.

We can't predict with any accuracy our total numbers in years to come but we can be much more certain about the numbers in our younger age groups.

Currently we have 74 confreres in our Province (3 on loan) and of those, 21 are under 65. In 2020, if our oldest 12 have gone to God, we would have 62 members but we cannot have more than 8 who are 65 years of age or less.

In 10 years (2025) we could still be around 39 members but we cannot have more than 4 who are under 65!

These calculations presume we have no candidates entering and we do not have Marists from other Provinces working in Australia.

Of course, it is highly likely that for a few years one or two confreres could continue to come from other Provinces to get experience here which they cannot get at home.

New Zealand is in exactly the same situation as Australia albeit with slightly bigger numbers.

Oceania and Asia have the reverse situation where the numbers in the under sixty-five group will continue to be the bigger proportion of the total group for the next ten years, but they have other massive problems to address in the next two decades.

Feedback

Very soon I will make good on my promise to circulate to all confreres any feedback I have received since last year on the 'reconfiguration' paper.

Best wishes to all

Faternally

Bob Barber sm



Provincial Diary

29 June-18 July

Provincial Annual Leave

19 July

Fourvière Commemoration, Sydney

21 July

Provincial Council Meeting

23 July

Assembly Preparatory Committee Meeting

3-7 August

Provincial Visitation, Brisbane

5 August

Province Professional Standards Panel

12 August

Province Aged Care Committee

18 August

Provincial Council Meeting

23-28 August

Provincial Retreat, Mittagong

30 Aug-4 Sep

Provincial Retreat, Hunters Hill

Appointments

Tom Ryan appointed vice superior of Herston community for a period of three years as from 1 May, 2015

Gavin Foster appointed vice superior of the Villa Maria community for a period of three years as from 1 June, 2015

Personnel

Gerry Arbuckle: On 16 May Father Adolfo Nicolas, the Jesuit Superior General, gave Pope Francis a copy of Gerry's latest book: *The Francis Factor and the People of God: New Life for the Church* (Orbis), after morning Mass at Santa Marta, Vatican City.

Observers said that the pope seemed to momentarily reach for his wallet, before being assured that the book was a gift.

Aidan Carvill has now withdrawn from the position of administrator of the parish of Geebung, in Brisbane; he moved back to Herston in mid-May.

Willy Melteras was alert and ready in the early hours of Monday 1 June, when some noise from below alerted him that a thief was trying to smash open a key-return box at the front door of the presbytery.

Coolly considering his options, he selected a piece of metal pipe which was conveniently at hand on his bedroom balcony, and flung it at the robber's feet.

Fortunately for the villain, the pipe missed, but it was more than sufficient to give him the fright of his life, and he was last seen running across the nearby oval under the light of a full moon. Willy: 1; Robber: Nil.

Brian Conaghan has now become a permanent member of the Maryvale/Montbel community.

His phone number at Montbel is (02) 9844 2262.

Ron Nissen left Sydney on 18 May to

work at the General House for several months preparing popular English-language publications in connection with the cause of the Founder.

He also anticipates visiting France to augment his impressive collection of photographs of significant Marist sites.

Thanks to the marvels of modern technology, Ron has continued his usual service to the Province of formatting and laying out this Provincial Circular.

Ron advises web visitors to press the "F5" key ("refresh") occasionally to ensure up-to-date web postings.

Ichiba Osamu: Jim Carty and Peter McMurrich travelled to Japan late in May to spend some time with Ichiba and to arrange for the transfer to Australia of various records associated with the Marist Japanese Mission.

They received a very warm welcome, and were grateful for the opportunity to also meet with the bishop of Kyoto, Bishop Paul Otsuka.

At this stage Ichiba is hoping to come to Australia in October for the Provincial Assembly.

The vicar provincial took a fast train to Tokyo on his way back to Australia, and caught up briefly with **Michael Jacques** at Sophia University. Michael enjoys almost celebrity status on campus, with young freshers waving feverishly as he passes. He is expecting to visit Australia in August.

John Allardyce: we welcome John to the Province in the month of July.

John will be helping out at St Patrick's, Church Hill, in response to an invitation from Ray Chapman to Marists overseas to come and work at St Pat's for brief periods while regular staffers are on leave.

John Hill
92nd birthday celebrations were held for John at Montbel recently.

Along with Fred Limeburner and



Above: Oscar Ichiba, Peter McMurrich, Bishop Paul Otsuka. Below: Peter with another of celebrity status. Further below: Yet another celebrity: John Hill.



Kevin Kerley, John is a regular visitor to Montbel for Sunday Mass and luncheon.

Deaths

Fr Kevin Francis O'Donoghue sm

d.7.5.2015, Heretaunga, NZ

Fr Sergio Ortega Noriega sm

d.25.5.2015, Mexico City

Fr Ioane Paulo Visesio sm

d.7.6.2015, Leufisa, Samoa

Fr Santi Gallorini sm

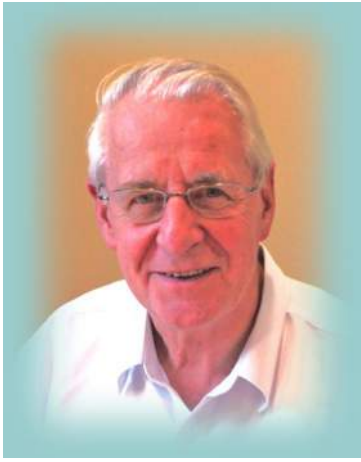
d.10.6.2015, Brescia, Italy.

Fr Louis Morosini sm

d.22.6.2015, Tanagai, Solomon Islands.

Syd Byrne

Neville's brother, Syd, died in Perth on Sunday, 21 June, and his Funeral Mass was scheduled to take place at St Cecilia's, Floreat, on Wednesday, 1 July. Neville was expecting to travel to Perth to preside at the Mass.



Craig Larkin

As this circular is being prepared news has come of the death of Craig Larkin on Jun 27. in Wellington, NZ

Craig's eminence in the Society of Mary stems not only from his ministry and leadership in the NZ province but as a member of the General Administration, Coordinator of International Formation and authorship of numerous books on key Marist and Colian themes. May he rest in peace.

Sick

Fred Kado was briefly in hospital several weeks ago at St Vincent's Private in Sydney for a minor surgical procedure.

Elaine Kennedy, Tony's mother, had back surgery in Newcastle in the middle of June.

Paul Glynn spent about a week in Royal North Shore hospital at the beginning of May following a fall in his room.

Tests revealed he had experienced a mini-stroke.

He has made a full recovery. Just prior to being discharged he was lined up to be the star attraction for a number of junior doctors receiving practical training.

As a result of his mini stroke, there was a particular touch exercise he had not been able to complete, and he was to demonstrate his inability to the junior doctors so they could

observe an example.

However, in typical PG style, when the junior doctors arrived Paul was suddenly able to complete the manoeuvre perfectly, and they all had to go off to find another exhibit.

Tony Neylan: A number of confreres will know Tony Neylan from his youth ministry work at St Patrick's and his involvement with Marist laity.

Tony rang recently to say that he has been recovering well from his recent heart operation, but has now been diagnosed with atypical prostate cancer ie. prostate cancer which doesn't exhibit normal symptoms.

He has recently completed a programme of radiation therapy and would be grateful for our prayers.

News

2015 MAP Meeting: this year's MAP meeting was held in Suva in the week beginning 15 June.

As well as the Provincials and Vicar Provincials of Oceania, New Zealand, and Australia, Pat Devlin from the District of Asia was also a participant, and also Larry Duffy from the General Administration.

A one-page summary of the meeting is included with this Provincial Circular.

Following the completion of the MAP meeting, the participants travelled to the Marist Brothers' noviti-

ate at Lomeri, and joined in the first session of the Oceania Province's Council of the Province gathering.

Powerful Owl: The Powerful Owl is Australia's largest owl. It is rare in Sydney and experts think there may be about 20 breeding pairs only in the whole Greater Sydney Region.

Just our luck that a pair have plonked themselves on our property at Villa Maria, and are looking to start a family.

The owl has a wing span of 112-135 cm (44-53 in), and emits a distinctive and resonant call at dusk and in the early hours, which can be heard for up to a kilometre away.

This bird is not to be messed with: it eats the equivalent of a possum a day, chomping off the possum's head in one bite, and carrying the carcass back to its lair for some leisurely grazing.

A representative of Birdlife Australia recently contacted us to give us the good news about the owls, and will visit our property from time to time to monitor the birds.

Confreres who remember Barry Miller's beautifully modulated pronunciation of the O vowel will regret that Barry isn't around to try his hand at "Powerful Owl".



MAP leaders with Oceania Council of Province members

Committee for Ageing: For some time now our Province Committee for Ageing has been a member short, and we were pleased recently to appoint **Br Ray Mulvogue fms** to the committee.

Since 1994 Ray has worked in Gerontology both as a lecturer and practitioner.

He has Masters degrees in Gerontology from Sydney University and Flinders University, and is community superior at the Marist Brothers' retirement community at Randwick.

Ray will join Michael Mullins, Paul Mahony, Janet Boyle, and the vicar provincial on the committee, and will attend his first meeting on August 12.

Fr Bern Ryan Story Prize: To honour the memory of Bern Ryan, the Province has agreed to sponsor an annual story competition at St Mary's Primary School, Bowraville, for a period of 10 years.

Three prizes will be given annually, each to the value of \$100. See photos of this year's proud winners, and the prizes they received.

Thanks to Paul Sullivan for all the groundwork to get this organised and established.

Fr Bern Ryan Memorial: the Blessing of a Memorial Plaque in memory of Fr. Bernie J Ryan sm will take place at the Barrunbatayi (Dreaming) Reconciliation Memorial in East Kempsey Cemetery during NAIDOC Week, Monday 6th July, 2015 at 2:30 pm.

Paul Sullivan and Paul Mahony will



represent the Province, and obviously if any other Marists are in the vicinity and would like to attend, they would be very welcome.

Paul expects around 60 people to attend.

The Memorial Plaque will be placed at the foot of a three metre high cross standing in the middle of the Barrunbatayi Reconciliation Memorial Garden.

The cross is currently being repainted in Aboriginal symbols by Internationally respected Aboriginal artist, Richard Campbell, who was a stolen generation person from Bowraville and now lives in Kempsey.

The Scripture Reading for the ceremony will be from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-22 followed by the Prayer for Reconciliation.

The Blessing ceremony will form part of the NAIDOC Week community celebrations in Kempsey and will be followed by refreshments at the Dunghutti Elders Council community centre.

The memorial plaque is being funded by the Marist Fathers Provinces of Australia and New Zealand.

The wording on the plaque reads as follows:

Fr. Bernie J Ryan sm
1.9.1924 - 21.2.2015
Born Wellington,
Aotearoa New Zealand
Aboriginal Catholic Ministry
Diocese of Lismore
Loved by many, friend to all.

Reconfiguration Proposal

Peter McMurrich was in Wellington 22-25 June, meeting with Tim Duckworth and Paul Martin, as a working group established by the meeting of the combined New Zealand and Australian Provincial Councils last March.

The task given the working group was to formulate a concrete proposal, process, and time line, in re-



gard to the combining of the existing Provinces of New Zealand and Australia.

The fruits of the working group's labours will be presented to the two Provincial Councils by late July, and their proposal will form the agenda for the second of the two combined Provincial Council meetings, in Sydney next September.

After the Combined Councils have considered the proposal, it will be available for discussion at our Provincial Assembly in October.

Visit of Bishop Jarrett

Celebrating 45 years since priestly ordination, Lismore's Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett, visited Hunters Hill and Woolwich on May 14.

The bishop took the opportunity to call on some of former seminary teachers, Jim Esler and Tony King, recalling his four years spent at St Peter Chanel's, Toongabbie.



Q&A at St Patrick's

From St Patrick's Ray Chapman reports on the Q&A held on Jun 16 and hosted by the Marist Family branches::

'Marist Q & A' is an initiative of the Pastoral Team at St Pat's, in response to the Superior General's letter of 2014 on the Year of Consecrated Life.

'It went very well last Tuesday with over 20 people there. The Q & A format was particularly helpful. We plan for a follow-up session in September.'

Advertising

Provincial Retreat: confreres will have received information and a sign-up slip re the Provincial retreats at Mittagong (August 23-28), and Hunters Hill (August 30-September 4).

Cut-off date for signing on was 30 June, but this is a very benign Provincial administration, and if you get in quick you might still be able to get on board. But please be quick.

Web site 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: sm & colin;

Australian Province:

newsletter & colin

or circular & colin

(either combination works).

Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner

This 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. Invitations to the Assembly and to the Jubilarians' Dinner will be sent out shortly.



Publications

Tom Ryan has had a number of articles published recently:

'Our Pathway to God: Sight' (plus Guest Editorial), *Compass: A Review of Topical Theology* 48:4, Summer 2014, 14-20.

Commentaries for Australia Day & Weeks 4-6 of Ordinary Time for *Pastoral Liturgy* 45: 1, 2015.

Commentaries for Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi for *Pastoral Liturgy* 45: 2, 2015.

'Liturgy, Spirituality and the Moral Life: Learning from Evelyn Underhill', *Pastoral Liturgy* 45:2, 2015, 8-13.

'Our Pathway to God: Hearing', *Compass: A Review of Topical Theology* 49:1, Autumn, 2015, 21-7.

'Our Pathway to God: Touch', *Compass: A Review of Topical Theology* 49:2, Winter, 2015, 2-9.



Provincial Directory

Aidan Carvill

As indicated above, Aidan is now in residence again at Herston.

Kevin Kerley

... has now moved from Villa Maria



to Horton Congregational Retirement Village at Hunters Hill. His room number is 4.

Contact details:

Horton House, 8 D'Aram Street, Hunters Hill NSW 2110.

Phone: (02) 9817 4660.

Kevin is now attached to the Maryvale/Montbel community.

Brian Conaghan is now also a fully-fledged member of the Maryvale/Montbel community, and his phone number there is (02) 9844 2262.

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

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

2016

Jan 1-31

Ray Chapman

Bilgola

Protocols: The following protocols are now in place for use of Bilgola:

- 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 notification 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:

2015

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

Dec 26-31

Michael Whelan

Note: 29 December, 2015, Michael would like to invite family members to spend the day at Bilgola as envis-

aged 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.

Note: From time to time in July-August our estate agent may turn up to show prospective buyers over the property. He will have his own set of keys.

Enclosures

- Continuing Education of Clergy
- August Social Justice Conference
- Summary of MAP meeting.

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

In brief....

Marist Family SJ web site

Thanks to Jim Carty the combined Marist Family now has a web site initially oriented to promotion of the August event at Santa Sabina, Strathfield, 'Both Ends of the Gun'. Go to: www.maristfamily.org.au

'Laudato Si'

The province web site has links to the full text of Pope Francis' encyclical, as well as a recent commentary from 'Act Justly'.

BP graduates

Five former members of the Bridge Program recently graduated from Australian Catholic University's online diploma program in Thailand.

