



From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

Provincial Chapter

In just under two months' time we will be holding our Australian Provincial Chapter.

Because we recognise how important the Chapter will be for our Province it is heartening to see the enthusiasm with which so many are participating in the regional meetings organized by the Preparatory Committee.

At times we hear some comment that we have left it too late in the day to undertake any major change, such as the restructuring with NZ and Asia.

Also, we hear some confreres question if it is worth the effort for men who are tired to have their gentle, peaceful existence disturbed and suggestions that we should fade out quietly.

I believe it would be a quite wrong if those who don't want to be disturbed make it impossible for those who are searching for the best ways to keep the show going have their efforts thwarted.

Against the current?

From experience I know that when you decide to take a minute's rest from rowing against the current because you are tired, in that minute of rest the current takes you back over the distance you have toiled to cover in the last half hour of hard rowing. Choosing not to

push on is a choice to go backwards.

Business thinking

Today, under the influence of commercial and business thinking, 'success' seems to be judged in the terms of quantity.

If numbers are increasing things are doing well. If numbers are declining things are going bad.

When we look at the number of our men in ministry and our age profile in Australia and other parts of the Society, using the criteria of business, we are forced to conclude that our product is no longer of value and shortly we will go out of business.

Quantity, however, is not the only criterion that we should use to judge how we are going. Numbers are a value but probably not the most important one.

Qualities and actions

In Chapter 1 of our Constitutions, especially nos. 8 – 14, in which we clearly see the *raison d'être* of the Society, the emphasis is not at all about quantity but on qualities and actions.

All of those beautiful numbers from the Constitutions tell us what it is to be Marist.

We see from them that Marists who are elderly and retired from active ministry can just as validly be living out their Marist vocation as can young men a few years ordained, fully involved in the apostolate and running at 100 miles per hour.

Our priority works

At our last Chapter we selected as priority works in the Province, St Patrick's, Hunters Hill, and the Marist Mission Centre.

While none of these ministries are perfect, not only Marists but many people outside our ranks will say that each one of them is going very well.

Welcome with mercy

Priests from all around Sydney, for example, can be heard saying how privileged our local Church is, in the three dioceses of Sydney, to have St Patrick's to welcome home with mercy the sheep who have wandered.



Our Lady of the Journey

It is not just that St Patrick's has men available to offer hours in the confessional that isn't found elsewhere which is important; it is the Marist charism/attitude found in the Sacrament that welcomes home the strayer.

It is a quality, that is important. That is why we as Marists concentrate our effort on preserving St Pat's as a tremendously valuable ministry.

Living a truly Marist spirit

In the past we had schools and parishes where many men were involved.

Today we have a man in a parish working on his own, or a single man in a school working as the chaplain, doing a wonderful job living a truly Marist spirit that is permeating the whole environment.

While we can certainly miss the impact that a dozen good Marists had in a school environment, that is no reason to overlook completely the good done by one Marist.

The bottom line must be for us to be as zealous and enthusiastic about living our Marist life as we can.

Marist Mission Centre

The last year or so, while continuing its great work, the Mission Centre went through a fairly tough period. Kevin Stewart was involved in making sure MMC complied with new laws to do with charities and setting up a structure in the Centre that provided the best means to do that work.

At the same time the staff members were also involved in trying to organize a good model for the Centre as it moved forward. Unfortunately, the two parties were not always going in the same direction.

At some other time and in another place it will be possible to give more information on what has happened on the MMC front.

At present we can be grateful that after going through some difficult moments the future of MMC looks to be in a good space.

Under 75's survey

Finally, it was announced in the last Circular that a survey of under 75's would be made to try and help the Chapter, the provincial administration, the General Administration, and if we decide to go ahead with reconfiguration, the admin of the new province, to have a clear picture of what personnel we have available for our mission in the future.

That survey will be out in the next few days and it would be greatly appreciated if all confreres concerned with it could get their response back by 20th May.

Fraternally

Bob Barber sm
Provincial



Provincial Diary

1 May

Aquinas Academy history book launch, Church Hill

3 May

Footsteps Programme Mass, Marist Brothers, Mittagong

5 May

Province Professional Standards Panel, Hunters Hill

9 May

Bishops & Religious Leaders Meeting, North Sydney

10 May

Chapter Preparatory Committee Meeting, Hunters Hill

11 May

Aged Care Committee Meeting, Hunters Hill

16-17 May

Provincial Council Planning Meeting, Currumbin

17 May

Provincial Council Meeting with Brisbane Marists

18 May

Fourvière Celebration Planning Meeting, Hunters Hill

25 May

Aged Care Planning Committee Meeting, Hunters Hill

27 May

Marist Brothers Regional Council Meeting

1 June

Chapter Preparatory Committee Meeting, Hunters Hill

8 June

Province Finance Committee Meeting, Hunters Hill

13-15 June

MAP Meeting, Hunters Hill

20-24 June

Provincial Chapter, Hunters Hill

22 June

Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner, Hunters Hill



Prayer for Japan during blessing of Our Lady of the Journey statue (p.5)

Appointments

Tom Ryan has relocated to Sydney and is appointed a member of the Maryvale/Montbel community

Terry Garrett is appointed to the Maryvale/Montbel community from 1 May, 2016, and is officially designated as “retired”.

Peter Somers has now rejoined the Australian Province and has been appointed to the Maryvale/Montbel community.

Brian Wilson has been appointed by the Provincials of Oceania and Australia to membership of the Villa Maria community. With the closure of Oceania House, Brian will continue to maintain some administrative functions for the Oceania Province from an office at Villa Maria, and will continue as Chaplain to the Sydney Fijian community.

Charles Randle has agreed to take over the role of Guardian of Currumbin and is appointed to that position for a period of three years as from 1 May, 2016.



Peter Somers and Brian Wilson
in their new digs



Deaths

Fr Robin Duckworth
d. 21.2.2016, Hull, England.

Fr Paul Albers
d.30.3.2016, Horst, Holland

Fr Phil Laplante
d.312.3.2016, South Wymouth, USA.

Paul Albers deserves an extra remembrance, having been ordained in our Province and worked here for many years.

Paul was born in Holland in 1923. After serving in the Dutch Army 1944-45 and the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, 1945-47, he found his way to Australia and worked for 7 years with the Colonial Sugar Refinery Company in Sydney.

Paul did his novitiate at Glen Davis in 1958 and was ordained in 1964.

He was on the teaching staff at Chanel College, Geelong 1965-70, and stayed on in Geelong for a further two years to assist as the school transitioned from the Marist Fathers to the Christian Brothers.

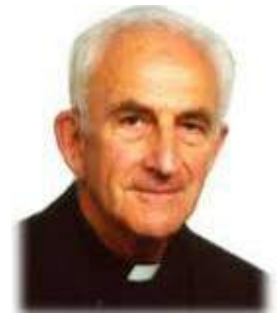
He was at Marist College, Burnie 1973 as college bursar, and at St John's college, Lismore, 1974--78.

He was then appointed to Helensburgh parish in Wollongong diocese 1979-80, and then followed brief postings at St Paul's parish, West Sunshine, and Claremont parish, Tasmania.

In 1981 he returned to Holland on secondment to the diocese of Roermond, remaining initially a member of the Australian Province.

He became increasingly unsettled by changes in the Church, and a steady decline in religious practice and Mass attendance. He retired from active ministry in 1995, and joined the Dutch Province.

He died on 30 March at Horst in Holland.



Bishop John Satterthwaite died at Port Macquarie on 23 April and will be buried from St Carthage's cathedral on Monday 2 May.

He was bishop of Lismore from 1971 -2001, and will be remembered with affection by many Marists from their years at St John's college.

He was particularly helpful and understanding at the time of the transfer of the college from Marist hands to the diocese.

Mrs Betsey Gadd, wife of ex-Marist confrere, Kevin Gadd, passed away recently after a long illness. The requiem was held on 9th March in Newcastle.

Sick

Paul Cooney will be staying on the same treatment regime which seems to be having good results. Paul reports that he is feeling well; the cataract operation which had been planned has been postponed and he is using long-distance glasses as an alternative.

John Worthington began experiencing severe headaches towards the end of April, and was admitted to St Andrews hospital in Brisbane on the Anzac Day weekend.

The source of the headaches has been linked to a disintegrated vertebra, and John was due to have exploratory surgery in the neck area as soon as possible.

Andrew Murray has been at Ashfield Private Hospital for the last 4 weeks; he saw his surgeon for a follow-up consultation on 26 April; he will need some manipulation under anesthetic to achieve 90 degree movement in the knees.

Peter McMurrich saw his surgeon on 26 April, and will be required to use a full leg brace for a further four weeks whenever he is out and about.

He has clearance to dispense with the brace while at home, which will facilitate showering and sleeping.

He is still restricted in his mobility, and will need a number of weeks of physiotherapy to bring his knee back to normal operation.

He can climb stairs one at a time, and will now work part-time in the office with the prospect of a full recovery by around mid-June.

Charlie Randle has recovered well from his knee surgery. He is walking normally without crutches, and is starting to drive again.

Ken Pearce: Paul Pearce's father, Ken, has been recovering from hip surgery. Paul has spent some time with his parents to help with the convalescence.

Pat Rowe: Former Marist confrere Pat Rowe's health has deteriorated to the point where he has had to go to into a nursing home in North Carolina near where the family lives.

News

Jubilarians' Mass & Dinner, Wednesday 22 June, 2016:

Invitations will be sent out shortly, but in the meantime, mark the date in your diary if you are likely to be coming.

As normal, the Mass will commence

at 5pm in Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill. Drinks and dinner will follow at Montbel. The Mass and dinner will occur in the middle of the Chapter.

2016 Provincial Chapter: The Chapter will be held in the Hunters Hill parish hall and Monday 20 – Friday 24 have been set aside as the dates for the Chapter.

The Preparatory Committee is working on a detailed agenda, and this will be made available as soon as possible.

Thirteen of the elected delegates are based in Sydney, and five are from out of town. The assumption is that the Sydneysiders will return to their home communities each evening and will not be accommodated at Hunters Hill.

Delegates not normally resident in Sydney should make their own arrangements for accommodation with one of the Sydney communities.

Just a reminder that according to our Province legislation, any member of the Province is entitled to attend the Chapter as an observer provided they attend for the entire Chapter.

The elected delegates to the Chapter are:

Begg, J, Carty, J, Foster, G, Hall, G, Holohan, L, Kennedy, A, Kervin, P, McFadyen, B, McMurrich, P, Mahony, P, Mullins, M, Murray, A, Redmond, K, Reynolds, G, Stewart, K, Sullivan, P, Truscott, S, Whelan, M.

Reserve delegates in the order listed:

Cooney, P, Nissen, R, Moore, H, Pidcock, P.

Lane Cove Community – An

Invitation: Michael Whelan left the Lane Community at the beginning of the year to take up his role as Parish Priest of St Patrick's.

Jim Carty and David Wilson, the remaining community members, have decided to make the vacated quiet, commodious en-suite room available as a visitors' room for any Marist who may be passing through Sydney or Sydney Marist who would like a short respite.

There is no cook, but they would be happy to provide an evening meal when possible.

For those who have never been to Lane Cove, it is conveniently located for transport to the city. As the song says "the door is always open".

Fr Lote Raiwalui – Visitation of the Province: Lote, the assistant general with responsibility for Australia and New Zealand, will be visiting both Provinces in the June–July period.

He will be in Australia from 4-24 June and 9-28 July, and in New Zealand from 27 June-8 July. He will be attending both Chapters.

His tentative schedule while in Australia will be:

6-14 June: based at Villa Maria (13-14 June attending MAP meeting, Hunters Hill);
15-17 June: St Patrick's, Church Hill;
18-24 June: at Villa Maria attending Australian Provincial Chapter;
9-17 July: based at Herston;
18 July: Paddington
19 July: attends Provincial Council meeting, Hunters Hill;
23 July: attends Sydney Fourvière



Lote Raiwalui

celebration;
25-28 July: Gladstone;
10-11 August: attends meeting in Sydney of combined Councils of New Zealand, Australia & Asia.

As regards the mechanics of the visit, Lote suggests as follows: "I would prefer not to have an organised list of times and individuals for interviews, but I will simply approach people who are available to have a chat when I am staying with the various communities. There might be some who would like to have their time organised and I will have no problems with that".

Powerful Owl: Just when you thought our friend the owl might have disappeared from the scene, the news is "He's back!!".

For those who came in late, the Powerful Owl is a rare bird which is

found in only a few select locations around Sydney, one of which is the grounds of Villa Maria.

The owl makes a haunting, intimidating call in the early hours, and eats possums and flying foxes, swooping on them from a height, chomping off their heads, and carrying the carcass back to its lair for some leisurely grazing.

We recently received an update from the Powerful Owl Watchers Society (something like that!), indicating that their operatives had confirmed sightings of a pair of Powerful Owls in the Villa Maria grounds during last year, and asking permission to keep them under surveillance during 2016.

Sydney Fourvière Celebration Saturday 23 July: Sydney Marists should pop this date into your diaries.

This combined Marist family bi-centenary celebration begins with Mass in Holy Name of Mary church, Hunters Hill, commencing 10.30am. Kevin Bates will be the celebrant and homilist.

From there the action moves to St Joseph's college for a sit down meal, with short addresses from Br Michael Green FMS and Maria Baden from Marist Laity. Invitations will be sent out during May, but in the meantime keep the day clear.

Mrs Mary-Anne Knoblanche, who has been working at Maryvale/ Montbel providing support and care for members of the community has increased her hours and will take on an additional role of helping the community members keep an eye on their health and medical needs.

St Pat's Installation: The new archbishop of Sydney has placed a strong emphasis on a formal installation of new parish pastors in the archdiocese.

On Sunday 24th April at the 12 o'clock Mass at St Patrick's, Church Hill, the vicar-general of the Archdiocese, Dr Gerald Gleeson, liturgically installed Fr Michael Whelan as the new pastor of St Patrick's.

Japanese Gift: In recognition of the much appreciated mission of the Marist Fathers to the Catholics of Nara Prefecture in Japan from 1949 – 2014, the Nara Catholic community recently presented a replica of the beautiful sculpture, Our Lady of the Journey, by Japanese sculptor Enzio to the Marist Fathers of the Australian Province.

The presentation took place at a Mass for Japanese Catholics at Hunters Hill on 24th April.

Mission Centre Staff: Ms Jane Cecilia, Ms Annie Cecilia and Mrs Veronica Warton finished work at the Mission Centre on 6th April.

They gave a very generous combined 23 years of service to



Michael Whelan's installation with vicar-general, Gerry Gleeson



MMC and Oceania House

MMC. The Province acknowledges their wonderful service to the Mission Centre and extends sincere thanks.

They would all prefer to be still working at the Mission Centre, but our recent restructuring has meant that the work is no longer there.

Oceania House, Rocher Ave, Hunters Hill: The Oceania Province has decided to close Oceania House and to link their property with future planning for the Villa Maria precinct.

As it may take a few years for the future of the area to be determined, the Provinces of Oceania and Australia have decided in the short term to make the house available to the House of Welcome to use for refugees and asylum seekers.

The House of Welcome are currently looking to see how they can make best use of the facility.

Until those decisions have been made, a temporary arrangement will be in place which will see the house occupied for security reasons.

Publications

Gerry Arbuckle

The Australian edition of **Gerry Arbuckle's** forthcoming new book, *Intentional Faith Communities in Catholic Education: Challenge and Response*, is to be published this spring by St Paul's Publications.

The USA edition follows in 2017. The book (85,000 words) looks *inter alia* at the future of Catholic education. It is the first of a series of nine books on Catholic education by

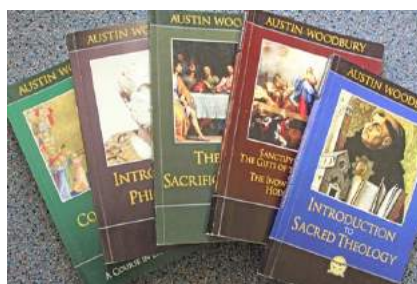
international authors under the editorship of Anthony Maher, Australian Catholic University.

Beyond Fourvière

A glossy booklet produced by the four branches of the Marist Family, entitled *Beyond Fourvière: Reflections from Young Marists*, and published in connection with the Fourvière anniversary, is now available.

The text is in four languages. We have received 25 copies for distribution to houses and communities.

If any house/community would like a copy please contact the vicar provincial.



Web site passwords

General Admin
Login 'sm'
Password 'colin'

Australian Province*
Login 'newsletter' or 'circular'
Password 'colin'
(either combination works)

**Our 'Members only' section gives easy access to Provincial Circulars, Superior-General's letters and other goodies*

Woodbury texts

Matthew Woodbury, the grandnephew of Dr Austin Woodbury sm, has begun to publish copies of Doc's famous "texts".

So far five of the shorter courses and writings have been printed. Anyone interested in these books should contact Fr Paul Glynn sm (Ph 9844 2219) for details.

Advertising

Cabcharge Cards: If you have a Cabcharge card you will notice that it expires shortly. In the mail you should have received the new blue card. Please cut your old card up.

If you are yet to receive your new card, please contact Andrew.

Directory

Tom Ryan's phone number at Montbel/Maryvale is 02 9844 2243



Currumbin

Currumbin Guardian: Tom Ryan's move to Sydney sees him relinquishing the post of Guardian of Currumbin, in which capacity he has served with distinction since taking over from John Jago in 2011.

On behalf of everyone in the Province who has used Currumbin in recent years, a sincere thanks to Tom for keeping Currumbin in good shape.

As announced elsewhere in the Circular, Charlie Randle has agreed

to take on the role, and we thank Charlie for his generosity.

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

In view of us now having just the one holiday house, there may be a little extra pressure on use of the flat.

Rather than promulgate any firm guidelines at this stage, we simply draw this to your attention, and we will see how things pan out.

Historically there do not seem to have been any major difficulties.

Current bookings

14-18 May

Provincial Council Planning Meeting (All Currumbin)

2-16 July

Bob Barber

20-28 July

Peter McMurrich

13-31 Oct

Peter McMurrich

9-25 Nov

Tom Fulcher

4-17 Dec

Jim Hargrave

31 Dec– 14 Jan (2017)

Michael Carroll

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of
Creation

Marist Family involvement

For over a year our Province JPIC Committee has met only in the context of the wider Marist Family group.

Originating with Sr Grace Ellul's invitation for us to join in a JPIC day with the Sisters and other Marist Family members, our committee presented the very successful *'Both Ends of the Gun'* seminar in 2015, highlighting the 'forgotten wars' waged against our indigenous brothers and sisters.

Emerging from this is a campaign to

have these issues as part of the history syllabus of our Catholic schools, then in the public system.

Jim Carty's membership of the *'Pacific Calling Partnership'* has connected us with the Edmund Rice Centre and the CLRI Justice and Peace sub-group (of which Jim is also a member).

Pacific Climate issues

The next focus of the Marist Family JPICC is likely to be the alarming climate issues in the Pacific.

We commend the recently-developed 'Pacific Climate Watch' web site :
<http://pacificclimatewatch.com.au/>

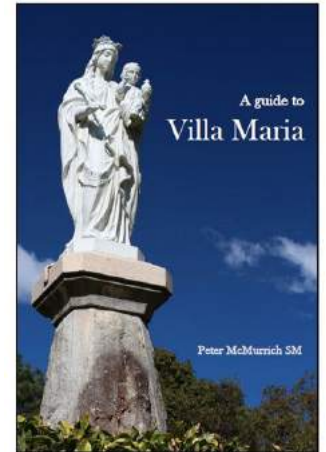
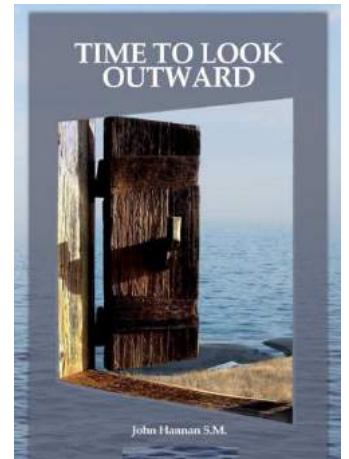
Bridge Program

Encouraged by our JPICC a new session of the Bridge Program is about to commence, offering skills to young Burmese refugees and migrant workers in preparing to access higher studies through its 20-week online course.

BP16 begins in mid-May.



And also...



Clockwise from top left: Oceania Marist Province new web site: www.maristoceania.org | John Hannan's latest letter ... and 'Guide to Villa Maria' (both at 'Members only', Province web site) | Oceania Province finance committee at Villa Maria | Piquet Centre flowers | Marist Charism & Culture group exploring Villa Maria | Combined churches of Hunters Hill, Good Friday Way of the Cross

