



## From the Provincial

The second last week of June marked an extremely important moment in the history of our province, when around a third of our province members were present at the Provincial Chapter held at Hunters Hill from Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd.

Because of the decision we took to restructure with other Marist units in our region, this was an occasion that will certainly have a profound effect on all of our lives, even if in the day-to-day situation we note very little change from the way we have been living.

### Restructuring and prioritising

The two big concerns that were before the 2016 Chapter were our vote on restructuring with other provinces in our region and re-looking at our prioritized ministries.

We came back in a reflective manner to these two key issues time

and again. Other areas we looked closely at during the Chapter were our financial situation and prospects; the impact ageing has on us; the recruitment of vocations, and formation; the global governance of the Society; and our up-coming General Chapter.

The discussion around all of these things has provided the provincial administration with a focus for where, what, and how we should be moving in our mission over the next few years.

### Listening to one another

There was a wonderful spirit in the Chapter. Many commented on this. One confrere remarked that we had come to discuss, not debate. Others noted that we were listening to one another.

For bringing this atmosphere to our gathering we must sincerely thank our Chapter Preparatory Committee and the Steering Committee. They did a superb job.

On the big question, whether or not we would be involved in restructuring, it was during the second day when we returned again to this question for reflection that a number of confreres mentioned that they could feel a movement, a change occurring in themselves and in the group.

### Members of the Society

The change individuals could feel was described in different ways, but one or two clearly stated that they were beginning to identify themselves in their core as members of the Society of Mary rather than member of an Australian province. This was for them a great change.

Should New Zealand and Asia decide to be in a restructured Province with Australia, which I hope they do, I believe our transition has to be very gentle and very respectful.

Any sense of domination, imposition or take over by any one of the established units will be very damaging to the process.



Provincial Chapter

We are entering into a new era, and while not denying the strengths and beauty of our respective pasts, it is essential for all of us to see ourselves as part of a new province, whatever it is called, and whatever it is going to be

### **Gently evolve**

Let's not rush things. Let us take our time and gently evolve into our new entity. Let us not cling to the past when it is not necessary.

Also, let us embrace and be open to further structural change in the Society of Mary.

As far as the prioritization of our ministries is concerned the Chapter looked at the ministries we had chosen at the 2012 Chapter and found that they should remain our priority for the future.

### **St Pat's**

It was clear that we still value greatly the mission of St Pat's in the name of the Church and we will remain committed to it.

Restructuring that might occur in the Society and the promotion of City Centred Church ministries by the General Administration have only underlined the position and value the province holds for St Pats.

### **Hunters Hill**

Lack of clarity about what was meant when Hunters Hill was chosen in 2012 was still present in the Chapter's initial discussions but in the end both the parish faith community and the Marist communities of Maryvale/Montbel and Villa Maria were recognised as works of great priority for the province.

### **Marist Mission Centre**

The Chapter also renewed its decision to see Marist Mission Centre as a priority ministry of the province.

There was quite a bit of discussion around how the Mission Centre was being reorganized, and although it

will not be able to operate as it did in the past, it is such a valuable work for the province and the wider Society that it continues to be a ministry we are strongly committed to.

### **Immense importance for all Marists**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July Marists the world over will be celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a small but powerful act that marked the beginning of the Marist enterprise in Lyon, France.

It is a day of immense importance for all Marists and there will be appropriate celebratory gatherings in hundreds of countries all around the world.

In Australia our main celebration will be in Sydney at Villa Maria, with a thanksgiving Mass, and at St Joseph's College, where we will share a meal.

### **Like a brushfire**

Over our 200-year history the Marist world has grown tremendously. Like a brushfire the four religious groups of the Marist family grew and spread rapidly.

In recent years the fire of the four religious branches is diminishing and is almost burnt out in some places but the Marist movement has been taken up by various lay groups who clearly identify themselves as Marist and the Marist spirit and values are perhaps wider and stronger than they ever were.

Mary and her way are extremely attractive to people of today who are committed to the mission of Our Lord.

### **Reservoir of Marian spirituality**

The religious branches of the Marist family were graced by founders and inspired members who for over 200 years gained deep insights into a Marian spirituality.

Today that deep and rich reservoir of Marian spirituality has to be passed on and shared with lay people who want to identify with a Marist charism and lifestyle.

We all must remain open to new expressions of our Marist life.

### **Time to look outward**

Opportunities and directions for the growth of Marist life allowed by the Church in the early C19<sup>th</sup> for our first Marists are different to what the Spirit invites us to today.

The recent letter from our Superior General, *Time to look Outward*, is a great invitation for us to imagine outside the constraints of our past ways of doing things and go in new directions.

This is something each of us must do and we must allow others to do it also.

Fraternally

R. Barber sm  
Provincial



## **Provincial Diary**

### **1-16 July**

Provincial on leave

### **19 July**

Provincial Council Meeting

### **23 July**

Sydney Fourvière Mass and Dinner, Hunters Hill

### **3 August**

Province Aged Care Committee

### **4 August**

Province Professional Standards Panel

### **10-11 August**

Joint Provincial Councils' Meeting (Australia, New Zealand, Asia), Hunters Hill

### **26 August**

FMS Regional Council Meeting, Mascot

## Appointments

**Patrick Kervin:** appointed House Manager at Villa Maria. Pat has been exercising this role since the beginning of the year, but on a temporary basis until we confirmed Kerrie Sanders' position as House Manager at Maryvale/Montbel.

**Chris Ketsore:** appointed chaplain at Marist College, Ashgrove, for a period of three years as from 1 July, 2016.

**Paul Hachey:** appointed to parish team and Marist community at St Patrick's, Church Hill, for 3 years, from 1 July, 2016.

**Charles Randle:** appointed guardian of Currumbin until revoked.

## Deaths

**Fr Antonio Gonzalez Alonso sm,** d.9.5.2016, Malgrat de Mar, Spain  
**Fr Attilio Borghesi sm,** d.16.5.2016, Brescia, Italy.

**Fr Camille Desrosiers sm,** d.16.5.2016, St-Augustin, Qc, Canada.

**Fr Rene du Romain sm,** d.28.5.2016, Noumea, New Caledonia.

**Fr John O'Dowd sm,** d.7.6.2016, Upper Hutt, NZ

**Malcolm McFadden:** Malcolm, who died on 24 May, was a former member of the Province and was a member of the **Japanese** region for a number of years.

His funeral Mass was at North Sydney on 1 June. Jim Harding, Syd Nugent, Bill Ryder, and Jim Carty were there to represent the Province. Malcolm's father was for many years the Province's solicitor.

**Br Trevor Hall cfc:** On Tuesday 28 June Gerard Hall presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for his uncle, Br Trevor Hall, at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Rookwood cemetery.

Br Trevor was a former principal at St Mary's cathedral school, Sydney, and was archivist for the

archdiocese of Sydney for a number of years.

**John Nissen:** Ron's brother, John, died peacefully on Jun 30 at the Mater Hospice, Newcastle. His four sons were with him.

Ron had prayed with him a few hours earlier and is grateful for the support and prayers of all.

John had been diagnosed with extensive cancer some months ago.

## Sick

**Paul Cooney:** Paul had further neuro-surgery on 17 June and has come through well.

He is continuing with his fortnightly chemical treatment, and has been swimming and walking regularly.

**John Worthington:** John had two operations on his neck early in May to address issues associated with the deterioration of vertebrae. He is continuing with a course of radiotherapy.

**Pat Kervin:** Patrick experienced severe chest pains on 9 May and was admitted at Royal North Shore hospital.

A stent which he had inserted in the 1990s had failed and a new one was put in.

Pat has made a good recovery, and was due for a follow-up meeting with his doctor at Royal North Shore on 27 June. The latter's surname is Rasmussen, though he is unlikely to be related to the Marist of the same name.

**Stephen Truscott:** Steve had to withdraw at the last moment from the Chapter because of a diagnosis of shingles, and ophthalmic shingles in the right eye.

Steve has indicated that the problem is responding to treatment, and that he is on the road to recovery.

**Judy Saliba,** formerly our Province secretary, has been suffering from a

very painful and awkward shoulder complaint.

Many things have been tried but the right treatment has so far not been found.

## Personnel

**Jim Hargrave** officially retired on June 24 as college chaplain at Marist Brothers', Ashgrove, bringing to an end 35 years of chaplaincy work in Marist Brothers' schools – 10 years at St Joseph's, Hunters Hill, and 25 years at Marist College, Ashgrove.

Jim will continue to live with the Brothers' community at Ashgrove, and will continue as chaplain to the community.

For 25 of the years Jim worked at Joey's and Ashgrove, each year he spent the whole of his long vocation (2 months) working in the Third World.

In the early days he worked teaching English in refugee camps in Cambodia. This was followed by relieving confreres in the Philippines who took a home leave and finally Jim did the same for confreres in Cameroon. In all cases his help was very much appreciated.

**Chris Ketsore,** who has completed his university studies in education, will stay on in Australia for several years, and will take on the role of school chaplain at Ashgrove.

**Paul Hachey,** from the American Province, will begin a three-year placement at St Patrick's, Church Hill, from late July.

Paul is a canon lawyer and has made several trips to this part of the world.

He has spent time in Fiji, assisting the Oceania Province with canonical issues, and last year spent a period at St Patrick's, assisting with the Mass and reconciliation programme.

We warmly welcome Paul to Australia and hope that his time with us will be enjoyable and

Lote Raiwalui with Kevin Kerley



fulfilling.

**Kevin Bates** was expected back in Hunters Hill parish at the end of June following the completion of his mini-sabbatical.

His return to Australia may be providential, as the Geelong Cats dropped a game against lowly opposition on June 25, and Kev's prayers may be needed to arrest a possible form slump.

**Tony Kennedy** left Sydney after the Chapter to attend a Marist international formators' conference at La Neylière in July.

Next year he will be leaving the Pacific Regional seminary at Suva to direct an international Marist renewal programme, also based at La Neylière.

## News

**Lote Raiwalui on Visitation:** our Assistant General for Australia, Fr Lote Raiwalui, has been with us since 4 June, and has spent his time based at Villa Maria and also at St Patrick's.

He was due to leave Australia on 29

June to attend the Chapter of the New Zealand Province from 3-8 July.

On return to Australia he will be heading north to Brisbane and Gladstone.

On Sunday 12 June, Lote preached at the 12 regular Sunday Masses at St Patrick's in support of the Marist Mission Centre appeal. He looked a little "spaced out" on the Sunday evening, but had recovered well the following morning for the first session of the MAP meeting at Hunters Hill.

His itinerary for the remainder of his time in Australia is:

9-17 July: based at Herston;  
18 July: Paddington  
19 July: attends Provincial Council meeting, Hunters Hill;  
23 July: attends Sydney Fourvière celebration;  
25-28 July: Gladstone;  
10-11 August: attends meeting in Sydney of combined Councils of New Zealand, Australia & Asia.

### **Sydney Fourvière Celebration**

**Saturday 23 July:** 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 were sent out during May.

**Tom Maloney Portrait Unveiled:** St Vincent's Hospital, Lismore, recently commissioned a portrait of Fr Tom Maloney sm by local artist Peter Smeeth.

The portrait was unveiled and blessed by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett and has a prominent position in the hospital foyer.

When Paul Pidcock spoke to us about the portrait recently he said that the portrait was so lifelike "that Tom looks ready to leap out and greet you".

The accompanying plaque reads: "A priest, devoid of airs and graces, winning people by goodness and tenderness, blending in and becoming part of our community. His faith was real, genuine and boundless.

May his exemplary life be reflected in ours". On his tour of the hospital in February this year, the Papal Nuncio remarked: "this is what a priest is.... it is more important than the portrait itself".

**MAP Meeting:** this year's annual MAP meeting was held at Hunters Hill 13-14 June.

The first day was a public holiday in Sydney, a sign of either dedication or stupidity on the part of the participants.

David Kennerley and Neil Vaney came from Wellington; Ben McKenna and Susitino Sionepoe represented Oceania; and Pat Devlin and Chris Ganzon were there from the District of Asia. Lote Raiwalui represented the General Administration.

Reports from each unit were presented and discussed. Particular issues addressed were: vocations, personnel, reconfiguration/restructuring in the Pacific and Asia, brothers in the SM, professional standards, structures in the SM, and renewal programmes.

On the second day, the first session was set aside for a meeting with Frs Gerald Arbuckle sm and Michael

Mullins sm, from the Refounding and Pastoral Development unit.

A fuller summary of proceedings is provided as an enclosure with this Provincial Circular.

**Provincial Chapter:** the 2016 Provincial Chapter, possibly the last Chapter of the Australian Province, commenced on the morning of Monday, June 20, and concluded in the afternoon of Thursday June 23.

During the Chapter short statements on Finance, Ageing, Professional Standards, and Vocations/Formation were approved; as declarations and decisions of the Chapter, these need to be submitted to the Superior General for approval prior to their publication in the Province.

On the final day of the Chapter, the Chapter, by a vote of 15 to 4, agreed to join a new combined province with the Province of New Zealand and the District of Asia.

In regard to restructuring, the focus now moves to the Chapter of the New Zealand Province, which commences on July 3; and to the Chapter of the District of Asia in August.

If there is agreement from all three Chapters, then work will commence on preparing for the establishment

of the new Province, tentatively scheduled to spring into life on 1 January, 2019.

Tony Kennedy and Peter McMurrich were elected as delegates to the 2017 General Chapter; Michael Whelan and Paul Sullivan were elected substitute delegates.

For the first time in many years, the Chapter operated without the assistance of a facilitator. Paul Sullivan was elected President of the Chapter, and was joined on the Chapter Co-ordinating Committee by Michael Whelan, Michael Mullins, Peter McMurrich, and Tony Kennedy.

The Chapter was characterised by an excellent spirit, which the participants acknowledged during the concluding session.

**Jubilarians' Mass and Dinner:** this year's celebration was held in association with the Provincial Chapter.

The jubilarians were Paul Pidcock, Brian Conaghan, and Jim Esler (60 years); Bob Barber, Gerard Hall, Andrew Murray, and Paul Mahony (40 years); and Pius Jones (25 years).

Paul Pidcock presided at the Mass in Holy Name of Mary church, and Gerard Hall was the homilist.



MAP leaders, L-R: David Kennerley (NZ), Chris Ganzon (Asia), Lote Raiwalui (GA), Peter McMurrich (Oz), Ben McKenna and Tino Sionepoe (Oceania), Neil Vaney (NZ), Bob Barber (Oz) and Pat Devlin (Asia)



**Jubilarians: Jim Esler, Bob Barber, Paul Pidcock, Gerry Hall, Brian Conaghan, Paul Mahony and Andrew Murray**

The meal was held at Montbel, which proved an excellent venue, as was the case last year.

Tom Fulcher and Peter McMurrich proposed the toast to the jubilarians, and Paul Mahony spoke on their behalf in reply.

#### **Australian Catholic Ministry**

**Register:** So far 30 confreres have submitted applications for this online registry, which obviates the need to submit pesky documentation every time a confrere leaves his home diocese to perform ministry elsewhere.

Most of the applications have now been processed, and confreres have been issued with their unique registration number.

**Film Crew Does it Tough:** on what has been arguably the bleakest and most miserable day of the winter so far, a film crew took over the Hunters Hill parish parking lot and Holy Name of Mary church on June 27 to shoot some scenes for a docu-drama on the life of Allan Bond.

**Willy Melteras** was seen loitering on the fringes of the set, offering hospitable assistance, and maybe angling for a bit part in one of the scenes.

**Marist Mission Centre:** The reorganization of MMC is close to completion. There are two main new features of MMC today.

**MMC Advisory Committee.** The main function of this group, meeting 4 times a year, and reporting through the Executive Officer to the Provincial Council, is to oversee the

eligibility, assessment and approval of all Mission Centre donations. The members of the Advisory Committee are: Fr Paul Sullivan sm (Chair), Sr Gail Reneker sm, Ms Margaret Walker, Br Allan Sherry FMS, Mr Tony Biddle, Mr Richard Croall, Mr Andrew Biddle, and the MMC Office Manager (as Minutes Secretary) – yet to be appointed.

**AMCOA and MFIM:** Most confreres would be aware that the Mission Centre has two arms – AMCOA (Australian Marist Centre for International Aid) and MFIM (Marist Fathers International Mission).

Donations to AMCOA are tax-deductible, and can be used only for overseas development projects according to Australian government guidelines. The funds cannot be used for promoting religion. Donations to MFIM are not tax-deductible and can be used for religious purposes.

In future the Marist Brothers under their Australian Marist Solidarity unit (AMS) will be responsible for the transfer of overseas designated funds from AMCOA to comply with the strict criteria of the Australian Government.

AMS will only provide this service to projects they currently fund, and will be responsible for project management and reporting.

The advantage to the Mission Centre is that it is relieved of all responsibility to develop overseas aid projects, and provide on-the-ground monitoring.

This significant change reflects the reality that there is already a high degree of commonality between projects supported by the Brothers and the Mission Centre.

## **Publications**

Paul Glynn's *Song for Nagasaki* has just been published in German; it is now available in 13 languages including Slovenian, an extraordinary achievement.

Julie Thorpe's history of the Aquinas Academy was launched in the crypt at St Patrick's on May 1st and has been very well received. Copies direct from the Academy or from ATF Press, Adelaide....*Aquinas Academy 1945-2015*, ATF, Adelaide, 2016.

## **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.

## **Web site passwords**

#### **General Admin:**

sm & colin

#### **Australian Province:**

newsletter & colin or  
circular & colin

## **Directory**

**John Hopkinson corrections:** a number of contact details for John in the latest Province Directory are wrong. Please correct as follows:

#### **Residence:**

Casa "Colin"  
Calle Cobija s/n  
Barrio Lourdes  
Tarija, Bolivia  
Tel: +591 4664 4983  
Mob: +591 6581 3351

Personal email:

[johnhopkinson@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:johnhopkinson@yahoo.com.mx)

Ministry email:

[cebstarija@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:cebstarija@yahoo.com.mx)

## 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 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:**

2-16 July Bob Barber  
 17-19 July Garry Reynolds  
 20-28 July Peter McMurrich  
 13-31 Oct Peter McMurrich  
 9-25 Nov Tom Fulcher  
 4-17 Dec Jim Hargrave  
 31 December Michael Carroll

### **2017**

1-14 January Michael Carroll

## Enclosures

- MAP meeting summary
- Jubilarians' Mass homily: Gerard Hall

## JPICC Corner

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

For the recent provincial chapter, JPICC convenor, Jim Carty, prepared a comprehensive report of the committee's activity since its formation in 2009.

Highlights included collaboration with other branches of the Marist Family and the establishment of the Marist Family Peace and Justice Committee, the staging of 'Both Ends of the Gun' seminar, with a follow-up special committee known as the "Frontier War Curriculum team" (a sub committee of the CLRI Peace and Justice Committee) established with Prof Henry Reynolds as consultant.

Mention was also made of the 'Bridge Program'. The latest 20-week 'BP16' is under way preparing young Burmese in Thailand and Myanmar for university application (participants pictured at right).



## And also...



From [www.maristfathers.org.au](http://www.maristfathers.org.au), clockwise from top left:

- Renovations have begun at St Patrick's
- Chris Ganzon with Filipino parishioners, Gladstone.
- Umpteen translations of the Fourvière Pledge, made in Australia.
- New prayer space in Chanel House.
- NZ Marist Laity leader, Bev McDonald, at MacKillop shrine, North Sydney.
- Kevin Bates recording the Fourvière song.

