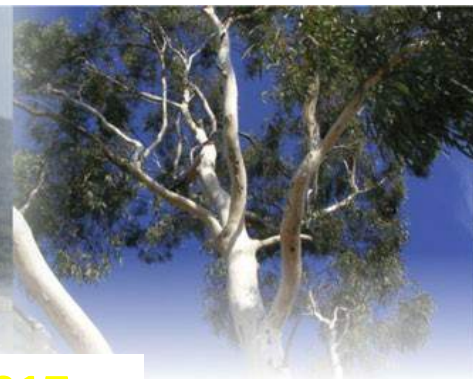


Marist Fathers

Australian Province



Provincial Circular Jun 2017

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From the Provincial

Dear Confreres

The last two months have been eventful in the life of our Province, especially with the holding of our Council of the Province and the annual MAP meeting held in New Zealand earlier this month. With the General Chapter of our Society on the horizon both of these meetings took on a special significance for us this year.

On 20th May we had the death of our confrere, John Hill, at St Catherine's Nursing Home, Eastwood. While it would be inappropriate to canonize John in our Provincial Circular, in the days after his death, one of the things that a number of people remarked on about John's life was his prayer.

When John came back from Japan and took up residence at Montbel all of us became accustomed to his spending long hours in the chapel at any time of day or night. Time in prayer is something many of our older confreres do. With John, however, this is something he was noted for during his many years in Japan.

Men of prayer

The reason for mentioning John's prayer here is to try and find some encouragement for the rest of us. All of us need to be men of prayer.

Being united with our Father in prayer is the most important thing

we can ever do. For those of us who don't class ourselves "on the threshold of Heaven" stage of life, it is especially important to increase our prayer. A healthy prayer life contributes greatly to a healthy life all round.

Fortuitous

Although our Council of the Province, when proposed late last year, was part of the program to see if we could amalgamate with the District of Asia, it was fortuitous that we decided to keep the event on our calendar when the proposed formal merge with Asia was abandoned. It has really proved most beneficial for us.

The decision to hold the Council of the Province allowed us to look at four key areas in our lives: governance and leadership; Professional Standards; aged care; and properties/finances issues.

Leadership

The feeling of the province is that we wish to remain a province and that we believe that we are well able to look after all our needs, but we acknowledge we do have a problem with of leadership.

We recognize that there is a very small pool of men in the province who are capable of leading us in the coming years. We also recognize that the best of these men might be appointed by the Society to some other role.

We also recognize that some of our provincial structures and legislation

do not meet our needs today. They were quite effective when we had over a hundred men active in ministry, a number of young colts in formation, and a few colleges and parishes who needed them, but these circumstances do not satisfy our needs today.

A new provincial

By this time next year, provided the General Chapter and next General Administration do not change things dramatically, the province will have chosen a new provincial who will begin his mandate at the start of 2019.

Extraordinary provincial chapter

To prepare for the new provincial administration the Council of the Province envisaged that we would hold an Extraordinary Provincial Chapter in the early part of 2018.

Our Lady of the Journey



This Extraordinary Chapter, together with enacting more efficient legislation to help in the running of the province, will discern how we will elect our provincial.

To involve the whole province in preparing for this Extraordinary Chapter the Council of the Province proposed that in the final months of this year we have either a number of regional meetings on various topics or we hold Assemblies, one in Brisbane and one in Sydney, covering the same agenda. The provincial council is still taking advice on what we should do about this.

Professional Standards matters

Another major part of the agenda at the Council of the Province concerned Professional Standards matters.

The Province has made some progress and growth in this area. When we recall the significant moments in past Assemblies and Chapters, for example, when we had a victim of abuse come and speak to us, and when we heard the terrible statistics around the involvement of our confreres in abuse revealed to us, we know that we have come a long way.

However, we still have a way to go in attaining complete ownership of this crime and understanding the damage it has done to victims, primary and secondary. We are still considering what are some of the appropriate steps we can take.

The suggestion of a special assembly of the province, made some time ago, is being considered. Rituals of healing to be incorporated in our annual retreats is another. Whether it would be right or wrong to make public the names of all our confreres who have been charged or admitted to an offence? Insisting that all confreres as a matter of urgency participate in whatever 'safeguarding' programs that are available to them.

All of these ideas and others will

continue to be discerned in the Provincial Council and in the Professional Standards Committee over the coming months. The handing down of the Royal Commission's report at the end of the year will be a significant moment.

Marist Asia-Pacific

Probably the main thing to come from our MAP meeting in Wellington this year was around the developing of 'cooperation' within our units.

Prior to the meeting the Superior General asked us to collaborate in the development of a "team ministry project" – a formal inter-unit project involving NZ, Oceania, Asia and Australia. We found, however, that no clear "project" could be envisaged by the group, either existing or that could be proposed. Each group is struggling to cover its present prioritized ministries with the confreres available to it.

The MAP group was conscious that we are currently doing a lot of cooperating on an informal level and these things need to be identified and highlighted. In Australia, for example, many confreres are not aware of the extent of cooperation that already exists. If it was not for the five confreres who came from other units to work in our three parishes we would not be able to staff those parishes today!

The MAP delegates felt that it is desirable to expand the instances of cooperation that we currently have and that we should continue looking for other endeavours where we can work together. There was a strong desire for this to happen beginning at the MAP meeting itself.

'Octopus like'

The current provincial administration and council believe it is imperative we do whatever we can to strengthen our province and plan for the future. In the recent report to the General Chapter on the province we described ourselves as "octopus like", active/independent tentacles and vulnerable/fragile at the centre. An unfortunate but true

admission of "us", who we are!

All of us want our province to retain the strengths of our active/independent tentacles but we must also be strong at our centre. All of us in our individual apostolates, as valuable as they are, must ask if they are strengthening the province.

Better serving the province

For the sake of the province and Society as a whole in many cases confreres need to give up a personal desire for a work that they want to do and be prepared to take on a life and living circumstances where their desire is not as well met but the province is better served.

Over the coming months all confreres are invited to enter into sincere dialogue with each other and the Provincial and Council on where they are at and can they help the province more.

It is getting repetitious for some but for those who need reminding, we have adopted as our own statement of commitment from CS13, the Council of the Society, Dublin, 2013, and re-affirmed by us at the Fourvière event last year.

Embracing the reality

To carry out our mission in this world of profound change we embrace wholeheartedly the reality of being a small congregation within the Church.

We are challenged to become: more focused; more overtly Marist in spirituality and community life, in our identity and our mission; more international; more collegial; more open to working in collaboration with the laity; and more courageous.

Bob Barber sm



Provincial diary

July 1-2

Mittagong, FMS Marist Youth Festival and anniversary celebration

July 4

Province Finance Committee

July 8-16

Gladstone Parish Visitation & Supply

July 17 -31

Annual Leave

July 18

Provincial Council Meeting

July 30 – August 3

Marist Charism In-service, Villa Maria

August 10

Professional Standards Panel

August 12

FMS Bicentenary Mass and luncheon

August 12 – Sept 9

Vicar Provincial Annual Leave

August 14

Sydney Archdiocese Safeguarding Course

August 16-18

FMS Contemplative Retreat, Mittagong

August 22

Provincial Council

August 25

FMS Regional Council, Canberra

August 27

FMS Mass, Mittagong

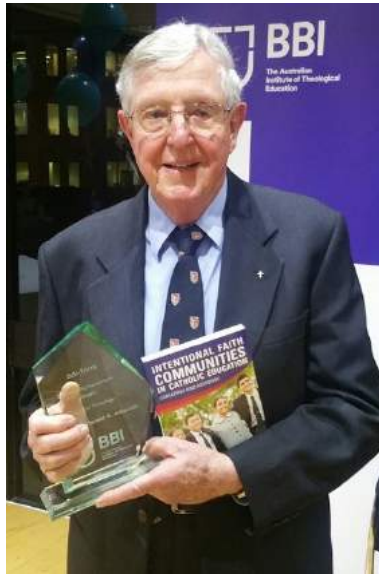
Personnel

Gerry Arbuckle was given an award on May 4 by the Broken Bay Institute for his lifelong contribution to Practical Theology, acknowledging Gerry's application of the Gospel to contemporary local and global cultures.

The presentation was made in connection with the launch of Gerry's book, *Intentional Faith Communities in Catholic Education*.

Chris Ketsore received Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary) & Bachelor of Arts (Humanities) degrees in an Australian Catholic University graduation ceremony in Brisbane on May 4.

Chris was accompanied by 'House of Welcome' confrères, John Worthington and Ekuasi Manu, as



well as cousins and nieces from Brisbane.

Gerard Hall completes tenure at ACU Brisbane this August. He will continue his chaplaincy ministry at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. He aims to keep up theological engagement through occasional workshops, conference-attendance and writing.

He is also committed to the promotion of Marist spirituality

through involvement in workshops (especially for teachers), retreats, writing and developing strategies to expand our ministry at the Community of Welcome.

Up-coming engagements include: Asia-Pacific Conference on Comparative Theology (Melbourne); workshop on Christology for the Carmelites (Minto); retreats for Marists (Auckland & Wellington).

Gerry was in Oslo recently for a conference sponsored by the International Academy of Practical Theology, and visited the Marists there, Andreas, Rory & Erik. He found them wonderfully hospitable. "They have just built a new Church (very Colian I told them!) which is a great credit to them ... with new wave of Catholics among refugees & immigrants mainly from Middle-East, Africa & Asia."

Andrew Murray is currently in transition. He retired from full-time teaching at Catholic Institute of Sydney in early 2016 and almost immediately had bilateral knee replacement surgery.

In the second half of the year he conducted a review of Marist schools in the Pacific with Br Tony d'Arbon fms and then attended the Oceania Chapter in January. He began an extended period of spiritual renewal with a thirty-day retreat at Douglas Park in February 2017 followed by other retreats on scriptural themes.

His renewal has been interrupted by a request to deliver three keynote lectures at the Melanesian Association of Theological Schools conference in Port Moresby in July 2017 on the theme of politics and religion followed by a series of talks to priests in the Mount Hagen diocese.

In addition, the Oceania Province has asked him to conduct a weeklong workshop for teachers in August.

Upon returning to his renewal he intends to make a close study of St



Above, from left: 'Song for Nagasaki', German edition | Burial of John Hill, Villa Maria cemetery | Provincial and Vicar visit Hayden Kennedy (far left) in Auckland

John's Gospel, to make a pilgrimage to Futuna and to arrange further time for prayer and reflection.

Paul Glynn's best-seller, *A Song for Nagasaki*, is now available in German, with the title *Ein Lied für Nagasaki* (trans: A Song for Nagasaki).

This engaging story of Japanese convert, scientist and atomic bomb survivor, Dr Takashi Nagai, has now been printed in twelve languages, selling over 100,000 copies since 1988.

Kevin Redmond has written from La Neyliere, with some very positive observations on the Marist Renewal Programme being run by Tony Kennedy. The course now has only a few weeks to go, with the participants finishing with an 18-day retreat.

Kevin Bates was spotted in the crowd at the recent Geelong Cats – Freemantle Dockers match down in Geelong, where he seemed to be offering some considered advice to the umpire.

The Cats clawed their way back from what looked like being a crushing defeat, and ran out comfortable winners by 2 points.

Deaths

Fr John Hill
d.20.5.2017, buried 25.5.2017
John died at St Catherine's Aged Care at Eastwood, just a few weeks shy of his 94th birthday.

He was born in Adelaide in 1923 and after being educated by the Josephite Sisters and Marist

Brothers, he joined the Society of Mary in 1941 and became one of the best known and most loved Marist missionaries in Nara Prefecture, Japan, where he commenced working in 1951.

Most of John's life was spent in Japan, returning to Australia in 2012. His ministry in Japan was punctuated by a brief period back in Australia for the years 1957-64, when he spent time in Burnie, St Patrick's Sydney, Traralgon, and Geelong.

The presider at John's Mass of Christian Burial in Holy Name of Mary Church on 25 May was Bishop Bernard O'Grady OP, John's cousin.

Fr Terence Fitzpatrick, d.28.5.2017, Ponsonby, NZ

Fr Des Hunt, d.3.6.2017, Milltown, Ireland

Fr Adrien Pelletier, d.6.6.2017, Framingham, MA, USA

Br Vincent van de Sande, d.27.6.2017, Hulst, Holland.

Sick

Jim Hargrave: Jim has recently had a series of radiation shots on his scalp to destroy a number of small growths.

Charlie Randle had hand surgery on June 26 in Brisbane.

John Molloy was in Lismore Base hospital in late June with clots on the lung

Bill Ryder was due back at Montbel in the last week of June after an operation to repair a kneecap fracture and an associated period in rehabilitation.

Paul Cooney: called in at the Provincial Office and at Montbel on May 29. He has recently had some good news, with an eye test indicating exceptional improvement in his sight, and meaning that he will now be able to resume driving after an 18-month period off the road.

Further good news is that his fortnightly intravenous treatment can now be administered at home in Thirroul, eliminating the need to make a fortnightly trip to Sydney. He will still come to Sydney every 6 weeks for a consultation with his specialist.

Paul will be having 5 sessions of radiotherapy on his spine to ease some pain, and this will begin next week.

He mentioned that he is walking regularly, and is even entertaining the possibility of taking up some gardening.

News

MAP Meeting: The annual meeting of Marist Asia Pacific was held in Wellington on June 12 and 13.

The Provincial and Vicar called in at Auckland on the way back to Sydney to catch up with Hayden Kennedy at the seminary; they found him looking well and in good form.

COP This! On Saturday June 10, the Council of the Province met for the first time since 2014.

Meetings are mandated to be held at least once between Chapters, and can also be called at the request of the Provincial, or a majority of members of the Council.

High on the list of matters discussed was the issue of leadership and governance in the Province. The Council of the Province endorsed a postulatam to go forward to the General Chapter which would enable more flexibility to Provinces in the process for selecting a Provincial, and foreshadowed the possibility of an Extraordinary Chapter of the Australian Province early in 2018.

At the last Provincial Chapter we did not conduct a review of our Province legislation, assuming we would be amalgamating with the New Zealand Province, and therefore writing new legislation for the combined Province.

Later in the morning, Andrew Biddle was on hand to give an outline on our financial situation, and lead a discussion around property and investment matters. After a break for some Subway sandwiches, the Council beavered away until mid-

afternoon.

Ardeer Golden Jubilee: on May 21 Bob Barber and Syd Nugent flew down to Melbourne for celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Mother of God Church in Melbourne's western suburb of Ardeer.

As we mentioned in the last Provincial Circular, the construction of the church was supervised by John Ryan, who at that time had pastoral responsibility for the Ardeer section of West Sunshine parish.

House of Welcome Community, Paddington: Paulo Rezende makes up the 5th resident of our multi-cultural Community of Welcome in Brisbane (2 Oceanians, 2 Aussies, 1 Brazilian).

Paulo is a 23-year-old Brazilian who has come to Australia to study for a Business Degree. He has a background in Law from a Brazilian University. Paulo is exploring a possible SM vocation, as he also plays a key-role in the Brazilian Catholic community in Brisbane and assists Fr Paul Mahony at the monthly Brazilian Mass.

Paulo's entrepreneurial streak is evident in his "strawberry business" which now focuses on the Gold Coast. On occasion, he stays a night or two at the Currumbin house where he is always happy to cook a Brazilian meal for visiting Marists.

Michael Whelan and Sr Fidelis McTeigue represented St Patrick's at the Marist Inner City Churches gathering held in London from 1-5 May.

There were twenty participants, representing five Marist inner city churches/ministries: St Mary of the Angels (Wellington), Notre Dame de France (London), St Patrick's (Sydney), Notre Dame des Victoires (San Francisco), and participants from Marist city communities in Passau (Germany), Rome (Italy) and Mexico.

The first three days were with the Alpha International Leadership Conference of 6,000 participants in the Royal Albert Hall; days four and five were held at Milleret House with a specifically Marist agenda.



Clockwise, from above: Council of Province | Sid Nugent at Ardeer jubilee | Inner-city church group in London (with Michael Whelan and Sr Fidelis) | Paulo Rezende



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:

Jun 23-Jul 14: Ray Chapman

Jul 16-Aug 4: Bob Barber

Aug 25-Sep 9: Peter McMurrich

Sep 10—19: Jim Hargrave

Sep 20-Oct 12: Tom Fulcher

2018

Jan 1 – 14: Michael Carroll

March 30 – April 20: John Begg

Did you know?

Oldest Stained Glass: Among the churches of Sydney, St Patrick’s has the oldest surviving stained-glass windows. The glass in question is in the church sanctuary, where three windows were installed in 1849.

Manufactured by John Hardman & Co of Birmingham (UK), they are the only surviving example on the Australian mainland of the glass work of the renowned architect and ecclesiastical designer, A.W.Pugin. When the church sanctuary was extended in 1928, the Pugin windows were reworked and set in a new format, and an additional window was commissioned from local artist, John Radecki, thereby creating four principal sanctuary windows in place of the original three.

The dating on the sanctuary windows is: (left to right) St Patrick (1849); Jesus holding the eucharist (1928); Jesus with Ss Peter & Paul (1849); St Bridget (1849).

Strained relations

Back in the 19th Century there was an extra church in St Patrick’s parish – St Michael’s, built in 1882 and demolished in 1914. It was at the intersection of George, Lower Fort, and Gloucester Streets, near the present Harbour View Hotel.

In 1895 there was a “community” of two French Marist priests based there. It couldn’t have been a happy household. When their Regional

Superior, Augustin Aubry, visited them that year he noted in his report to Marist headquarters in France: “Fraternal relations are somewhat strained; in fact, these confreres only speak to one another when one thinks of something to say which will make the other more miserable”.

Publications

Tom Ryan has had published ‘Weakness, and Wounded and Troubled Love in Pope Francis’ Amoris Laetitia’, The Australasian Catholic Record 94: 2 (April) 2017, 131-147.

John Hopkinson: Some of John’s many friends and supporters have banded together to produce and distribute a substantial booklet, Hidden and Unknown in the World: Sketches of 40 years of Missionary Journey in Today’s Latin America. The booklet is a fitting tribute to John’s life of dedication and commitment in overseas missions.

The Superior General’s Report to the General Chapter 2017: To Lead our Society in Rediscovering our Deepest Identity as Marists has now been posted to all confreres, and you should have your copy by the time you read this Circular.



Advertising

Child Protection Sunday is being observed in the Australian Church on Sept 10. As the date gets a little closer we will distribute materials and prayers with an encouragement to communities to have some sort of community ritual on or around the date to acknowledge and pray for sexual abuse survivors.

Provincial retreats and Jubilarians’ Mass and Dinner: the Mass and Dinner is on the night of Friday, 10 November, with the Montbel retreat commencing Sunday 5 November, and the Kincumber retreat commencing Sunday 12 November.

Celebrated scripture scholar Michael Fallon msc, will be leading the retreats, with reflections on the spirituality of St John of the Cross. RSVPs for the Jubilarians’ function and the retreats will be sent out in early August; in the meantime, pencil the dates in your diary if you’re planning to participate.

New wave of Telstra technical support scams: victims are contacted by callers pretending to be representatives from Telstra reporting some kind of problem. (One recent scam, for example, claims that lights blinking in a particular pattern on a modem or router indicates an issue).

These callers either request remote access to your computer and/or ask for credit card details in order to charge a fake support fee or fix a false payment processing issue. Your best move is to simply hang up.

Provincial Directory



John Begg: Just a reminder that John has moved back to Herston. He is in Unit 2, where the phone number is 07 38524419.

Muriel's exchange visit

Burmese Karen graduate of the JPICC-sponsored Bridge Program, **Muriel Valles**, (22) is on her way Down Under.

Muriel followed her BP experience with ACU's Thai-Burma border online program, graduating in 2015 and obtaining a scholarship with Hong Kong's Institute of Education. She will soon begin a five-month exchange with Wollongong University.

Muriel's story *'My journey began with BP'* is published on the province web site. She writes:

In 2013, I got a chance to participate in the online programme, Bridge Program (BP), founded by Marist Fathers. This is my first online course thus it offers me the very first exposure to online learning through BP platform. This is a stepping stone for my education that bridge me from the way of traditional classroom learning to the visual learning.

The fundamental learning materials and clear guidelines helps me familiarize with internet based learning system in addition to enhancing my critical skills, communication skills and four English skills. BP is a firm step through which I can now continue my further degree.

Higher education

In 2014, I was accepted by The Australian Catholic University (ACU) opened for migrants and refugees from Thai-Burma Border, to pursue the Diploma in Liberal Studies. The programme offers face to face and online learning courses, nourishing me with international knowledge and I could say this is the first exposure to what is happening in the real world.

I graduated from ACU in 2015 and in the same year, the blessings came upon that I was offered a



Above: Muriel with passport and visa | During her BP days at Mae La Refugee Camp, Thailand.

scholarship to pursue Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Liberal Studies Education (BALSE), four year programme, in the Education University of Hong Kong.

Exchange study

After completing my second year of BALSE, I was approved for the exchange programme in the University of Wollongong in the Spring semester, from July to November 2017. During the period of five months, I have basically chosen to study the courses about communication, culture and politics. I am looking forward to study and learn in a new environment and see the beauty in some parts of Australia.

Thank you!

I would like to send a great gratitude to all the Marist fathers' family and friends, ACU family, professors and teachers

JPICC Corner

Provincial Committee for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of
Creation

who had taught and shown me courage, competence and care so that I could pursue the Higher Education. I believe that the academic I have achieved and will achieve not only benefits me but also can be a contribution to the community where I am from. This is not the end of my journey however, I am very blessed to have a strong foundation and a well beginning.

Another success

From Nu Poe refugee camp, Thailand, another Bridge Program and ACU graduate reports scholarship success.

21-yr-old Burmese, **Hnin Set Win**, (BP14-15) has just received word of a scholarship to Rangsit University, Bangkok.

Congratulations, Muriel and Hnin Set !



Hnin Set Win on her ACU graduation day at Maesot, Thailand, May 2017.

Web site passwords

General Admin

Login 'sm' | Password 'colin'

Australian Province*

Login 'sm', 'newsletter' or 'circular'

Password 'colin'

(all combinations work)

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

And also...



Clockwise from top right:

- Painting at Villa Maria
- Oceania finance meeting
- Prov Council & Brisbane Marists
- Hoppy's '40 years' booklet
- Rainbow lorikeets at Villa Maria
- Two visiting provincials: Ben McKenna and David Kennerley
- Paul Glynn and the Ginkgo tree

