



Provincial Circular

No.2 2013

Provincial's letter

Dear Confreres

As a Province and Church we have received wonderful blessings during the two months since I wrote in our last Provincial Circular. Two stand out. As a Church we have received a new leader in the person of Pope Francis and in the Province we have had the visitation of Fr John Hannan sm, our Superior General. These have been outstanding graces for us.

The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI was a momentous event in the life of the Church. We are a Church that needed a big shake up. The early days of Pope Francis' pontificate have given signs of a new *aggiornamento*. Let us pray seriously that the Holy Spirit will continue to drive that purification and renewal needed in our Church. Changes and graces we need in our Church are major.

The visitation of John Hannan sm to our Province was a grace. John now knows us, with our quirks, foibles and our strengths, better than be-

fore and at first hand. Knowing where we come from he continues to encourage and challenge us to deepen our Marist life, as individuals and communities, but with more understanding of what is entailed.

The visitation has also assisted us in getting to know John and the Society. In speaking the truth to us at our gatherings with him, John has helped us get a better picture of the huge difficulties facing the international Society at this time.

I am a bit nervous about my next point but know it has to be said. It has to do with trying to get us to recognise more honestly our situation in Australia and the Society at large and to agree that we need a seismic shift in our current outlook, similar to the change that has occurred in the Church in the last two months. The world-wide Society is not my domain but I have to try and do something in Australia.

During the next month we are all invited to take part in one of our

"Regional Meetings" where we will continue to review our Marist Government. I feel nervous about raising this point and asking all to get involved in a positive and constructive way because I can hear many of our hard-nuts saying: "why do we have to go over this again"; "we have already done this"; "change won't save us", etc.

Our negative voices, both in Australia and Society-wide, have been too strong. Our positive voices which desire to give the General, his team and the blokes with some energy and willing to face the challenge to change and update the Society are not being heard. I believe that our discussions on reviewing our governance over the last two years has led to a stepping back from making creative moves and decisions that wish to renew our Society.

In our Province, what we need is for everyone to get positively involved into discussing the Dr John Honner paper *Issues and Directions* with an aim to sending to John Honner constructive thoughts. Everyone will receive John's four page paper. Those who want more details will see how to access the two appendices on the web and anyone who wants these sent to them can contact the Provincial Office.

We are past the eleventh hour. We have mucked around with this opportunity to look at how to plan our future over the last two years and will not have many, if any, chances in the years ahead to refocus our Marist world into the future.

Prayers and blessings to all

Bob Barber sm, Provincial



John Hannan's first point of call: Gladstone with Aliko Langi and Paul Mahony.

Provincial Diary

- 21 May
Provincial Council
- 27 May
Province Towards Healing Panel
- 4 Jun
Province Finance Committee
- 17 Jun
Committee for the Ageing
- 18 Jun
Provincial Council

Appointments

Province Formation Committee

Bill Ryder has agreed to replace **Gerard Hall** on this committee. The members are, therefore, **Tony Kennedy** (Chair), **Kevin Redmond**, **Bill Ryder**, **Peter McMurrich**.

Vice Superior, Villa Maria

Br Charles Randle has been reappointed vice-superior at Villa Maria for a further term of three years.

Personnel

Judy Saliba: In mid-March we farewelled **Judy Saliba**, our provincial secretary for the last 21 years. Judy commenced just at the end of **Garry Reynolds'** provincialate, and since then has survived 4 provincials: **Tony McCosker**, **Jim Carty**, **Bill Ryder**, and **Paul Cooney**. We are extremely grateful to Judy, who has given the province outstanding service over



Judy Saliba: last days in the office

many years. On Wednesday, 20 March, Judy was formally farewelled at a morning tea at Montbel. In recent years Judy was working for 3 days a week only, with a combination of computer technology and our diminishing membership contributing to the need for fewer work hours. For the immediate future we will not be making a new appointment, because we believe that the remaining administration team will be able to absorb the tasks previously performed by the province secretary. This arrangement will be reviewed in 6 months' time.

Tom Maloney: Tom has been remembered and immortalised in the naming of Fr Tom Maloney Way at Marist College, Ashgrove. We are not sure where Tom Maloney Way takes you, but the citation at the naming ceremony last year reads as follows:

'Fr Tom retired from the chaplaincy of Marist college Ashgrove in 1987. During his time at the college Fr Tom was a constant priestly witness and symbol encouraging the boys – as he had been known to say on many occasions – "on their pilgrimage of life". He was a character. A storyteller. A conversationalist. A confidante. A sports coach. A traveler. He was also an umpire – he of the sunburnt finger as he signals yet another dismissal – LBW.'

Willy Melteras

Willy is a seminarian from the Oceania province, who has completed his theological studies and has recently been updating the Oceania province website.

He will be joining **Kevin Bates** at Hunters Hill parish for the next two years, engaged in pastoral work. We warmly welcome Willy to the province. It is anticipated that later this year Willy will make his final profession, and receive diaconate.

Tony Biddle

Tony has indicated that he will be



retiring as province business manager at the end of 2013. He took over the position towards the end of 1999 following the sudden death of Peter O'Brien. There will be opportunities later in the year to thank Tony for all he has done for the province. In the meantime the search for a replacement is well advanced, and it is anticipated that an announcement will be made within the next couple of weeks.

Sue Chen

Currently principal at Marist regional College, Burnie, announced in April that she will retire at the end of 2013.

Tony Brooker

Business manager at St Patrick's, Church Hill, Tony is also retiring this year, in August. Tony was appointed in 2003 towards the end of Garry Reynolds' term as parish priest, and has worked at St Patrick's with great generosity, commitment, loyalty and pastoral sensitivity. Anyone who has been on the staff at St Patrick's during Tony's period as manager will be aware of the great debt we owe Tony, and we wish him a quiet and peaceful retirement.

Paul Cooney

During February and March Paul took over the reins at Maryvale/Montbel while **Garry Reynolds** took a well-deserved break. Paul is now based at Haberfield, and is on track to take up the position of general bursar in Rome around the middle of the year.

Tony Corcoran

Tony was with us during March for annual leave, spending some time in Sydney at Villa Maria, and also paying a visit to the north coast.

Paddy O'Hare

Paddy took his leave of the Japanese mission after Easter, bringing to an end 44 years of ministry in Japan. As was noted in John Hosie's 50 year history of the Japanese mission: "Paddy is an able missionary, a penetrating thinker, a good linguist, and a fine writer who is always good company". Paddy is currently taking a break in Ireland based at Chanel College at Coolock in Dublin prior to an appointment in the Europe province, possibly in France. We wish him every blessing in the years ahead.

Oscar Ichiba

Oscar and **Michael Jacques** are now the sole Marist presence in Japan. Oscar still has an amount of work to do in order to liquidate the legal entities under which the Marist Mission in Japan operated. In the coming year he will work, as a Marist, under contract to the bishop of Kyoto.

Aidan Carvill

Aidan has been appointed by the archdiocese of Brisbane as administrator of St Kevin's parish, Geebung.

The long-serving former pastor passed away recently. The parish address is 251 Newman road, Geebung; ph. (07) 3265 6523; fax (07) 3265 7649.

Deaths

(Australia/New Zealand)

Charles Bucher

Father of **Sue Chen**, principal at Marist regional college, Burnie (Tas.), died in Hobart on 12 March. His funeral was on March 15 at North Hobart. **Tony Kennedy** was able to be present.

Maureen Kerslake

Sister of **Gerry Arbuckle**, died 30 March in New Zealand. Gerry had flown to New Zealand a few days before to be with his sister in her last days, and remained on for the funeral in Wellington on April 4.

Thelma Evans

Mother of **Kim Evans** from Woodlawn, was buried in Tamworth on April 26. **Bob Barber** travelled to Tamworth from Sydney for the funeral, and **Paul Pidcock** made the trip from Lismore.

Bishop Bill Murray

Emeritus bishop of Wollongong, died on April 22. **Bill Ryder and Peter McMurrich** represented the province at the funeral in Wollongong on 1 May. Bishop Murray was bishop in Wollongong for all of Bill's time as principal of Holy Spirit college, Bellambi.

Terry White

Terry was buried from Corrimal Catholic church on 26 March. Terry was director of the Wollongong Catholic Education office for many years while Marists were still at St Paul's/Holy Spirit college, Bellambi. In addition, Terry's wife, Pat, worked

at the college for a number of years.

(Others)

Fr Juan Carranco

USA, 88 years, 28 February.

Fr Benjamin Ferreira

Mexico, 91 years, 31 March.

Fr Francois Bouttier

France, 90 years, 11 April.

Sick

John O'Ryan and John Hill

Both had brief spells in hospital towards the end of April with blood pressure and blood sugar issues, but both are now back at Montbel.

Kevin Bates

Kevin was due to enter hospital on 29 April for surgery for a hernia. He expects to be back on deck around May 10, and during his absence **Paul Pearce** and **Bill Ryder** will be looking after the pastoral needs of the people of Hunters Hill.

Mrs Orfelina Cecilia

Mother of **Annie and Jane** in the Marist Mission Centre, has been seriously ill in St Vincent's hospital in Sydney. In recent days there has been some improvement.



Jan Biddle

Tony Biddle’s wife, Jan, was due to have day surgery on Monday 29 April for the removal of a melanoma on her arm.

Please remember all our sick in your prayers.

News

Superior General’s Visitation

Our superior general, **John Hannan**, was with us from March 22 – April 17, and made himself available for an interview with each member of the province; he also conducted regional meetings at Herston, Hunters Hill, and St Patrick’s. In a period of only 3 weeks and a bit, John travelled to Gladstone, Brisbane, Sydney, and Macksville, and had a personal interview with 70 members of the province. **Steve Truscott** travelled the furthest to see the general, making the trip from Perth to Sydney; and **Tony Kennedy and Fred Kado** came up to Sydney from Burnie. **Michael Moore** also intended to meet the general in Sydney, but was struck down with a virus the day before he was due to travel, and reluctantly had to remain in Perth. **John** impressed everyone with his wholehearted commitment to the



Marist Asia-Pacific (MAP) leaders’ meeting in Wellington

visitation, and his ability to put people at ease and allow space and opportunity for genuine personal sharing. **Paul Sullivan** has kindly sent us some photos of the general in Macksville, and you’ll see some of them below.

Vocations Research

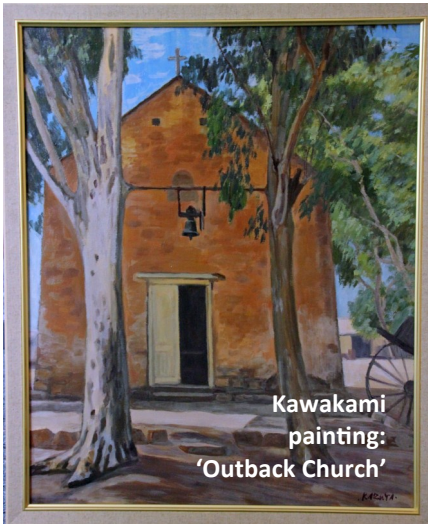
As a preliminary follow-up to the decision of the 2012 chapter to establish a vocations panel for the province, the provincial council has commissioned **Michael Brungs** to undertake a 3 month part-time research project on the current situation with regard to religious and priestly vocations, and to make recommendations arising out of the

research. Michael would be well known to many Marists: he and his wife, Cecilia, are members of the Hunters Hill parish, and Michael is a retired professor of chemical engineering. He commenced work in mid-March.

Provincial Retreat

This year’s provincial retreat is now confirmed for 15–20 September at Hunters Hill. **David Kennerley** from the New Zealand province will lead the retreat. We will begin on the evening of Sunday 15 September, and conclude at lunchtime on Friday 20. The jubilarians’ dinner will be on the evening on Friday September 20, preceded by Mass.





Kawakami painting: 'Outback Church'

Jubilarians

Ordination

60	Paul Glynn	19.7.1953
	Sydney Nugent	25.7.1953
50	John Begg	6.7.1963
	James Carty	6.7.1963
	Greg Ferguson	6.7.1963
40	James Collins	26.5.1973
25	Luke Holohan	26.8.1988
26	Michael Jacques	8.9.1988

Profession of Brothers

60	Colin Campbell	28.4.1953
40	Mikaele Cilicewa	1.1.1973

MAP Meeting

The annual Marist Asia Pacific Meeting was held this year in Wellington (NZ) from 18-20 April. Our superior general, **John Hannan**, crossed the ditch to join the meeting following visitation of the Australian province. Among the decisions made were: i) Conduct two more Spirituality and Life Programmes at Villa Maria, Hunters Hill (2013 & 2014); ii) Revise and reissue the combined Australia-New Zealand *Prayer Companion* last issued in 2009; iii) Continue work on a checklist for Working with Laity in Mission. There is a one page summary report included with this provincial circular.

Villa Maria Site

As announced in a recent circuit message, we have decided to discontinue hiring the buildings on the Villa Maria site to the general public.

However, they can still be utilised for our own use, or for parish or Marist family needs. Any enquiries or requests to book the facilities can be made to the vicar provincial.

Marist Charism Group

The provincial council met in March with **Kim Evans** and **Glenn Roff** regarding the establishment of a group to promote our Marist charism in our former schools (Woodlawn, Belambi, Burnie) and also further afield. In addition to Glen and Kim, **Gerard Hall** will be a member of the group, and provide a link with the provincial council. **Andrew Dumas** from Marist Laity Australia has also agreed to be a member, It is anticipated that one or two others will be added to the group in the near future.

Province Properties Committee

We have formed a small group under the chairmanship of **Tony Biddle** to look at our province properties: their future uses and our future needs. The members, in addition to Tony, are **Jim Carty**, **Allan Connors**, **John Jago**, **Garry Reynolds** and **Peter McMurrich**. The Hunters Hill site will feature largely in the assessment.

Kawakami Painting

A painting entitled "Outback Church" has been donated to the Marists by the son of a famous Japanese artist, in recognition of their work in Japan.

The painting was blessed at a recent Japanese Mass in Sydney, and now hangs in the lecture theatre of Woodbury Hall, Hunters Hill.

Publications

Mission Too Far

The Australian launch of Jan Snijders' book on the early years of the Society's mission in Oceania (**A Mission Too Far, ATF, Adelaide, 2012**) took place at St Patrick's on Sunday 3 March. **Michael Whelan** was MC for the gathering, and **Gerry**

Arbuckle was the official launcher. **Tony Corcoran**, home in Australia on annual leave, represented the general administration.

Advertising

Money Grab

In November, 2012, the Commonwealth Government amended the Banking Act of 1959 to enact a provision whereby banks are now required to close any account which has been inactive for 3 years, and transfer the money to the Federal Treasury.

Sounds outrageous, and it is. But that's now the law. So use it or lose it.

To keep an account active, and the money in the account safe from the Federal Treasury, you simply need to **do something** at least every three years eg. Withdraw \$5, and then return it to the account.

Stay Smart Alert Service

The Federal Department of Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy provides a free alert service for internet scams, fraudulent email notices etc.

If you sign up, regular alerts will come to you via your email. If you're interested, or want further information, just google "stay smart online alert service".

That will take you to the place where you can have your questions answered and sign on for the alert updates.

The Council Discussed

- Replacement for province business manager
- Provincial secretary position
- Response to latest discussion paper on *review of government: issues & directions*
- Report from superior general on Australian province
- Personnel issues

Directory updates

John Jago

Email: jagojohn@hotmail.com

John Hopkinson

Postal address:

Misioneros Marista
Casilla 345, Tarija, Bolivia
Phone: +591 4-665 8316
Mobile: +591 7349 1329

John Burke

The mobile number given in the Provincial Directory for John is no longer current. Please delete it. There is no replacement number.

Provincial Office

Just a reminder that from the beginning of this year we have new email addresses:

Bob Barber

provincial@maristfathers.org.au

Peter McMurrich

vicarprovincial@maristfathers.org.au

Tony Biddle

businessmanager@maristfathers.org.au

These are the only email addresses being regularly monitored, and for emails you would need to use one of the above.

Currumbin & Bilgola Flats

Bookings are made through the vicar provincial.

The self-contained flat at Currumbin is available for bookings for Marists and their families.

Current Currumbin bookings

Apr 29-May 06 Tom Ryan
May 07-11 Maintenance
Jul 01-24 Bob Barber
Sep 17-30 Peter McMurrich
Jan 01-14 Michael Carroll

The self-contained flat at Bilgola is available for Marists to book for an extended holiday, retreat, or extended period of study.

Current Bilgola bookings

Aug 01-31 Patrick Kervin

Enclosures

- Information Bulletin: Office for Clergy, Life & Ministry
- MAP Meeting Summary Report: Wellington 18-20 April



Montbel reflections