

Marist Mission Centre (MMC)

Managing both:

The Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)

ABN 91 030 510 250



The Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)

ABN 87 382 823 140

MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER
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Caring For Creation

The month of May marks the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark Encyclical – Laudato Si – On Care For Our Common Home. This is a call for action around the world to - Care for Creation.

Laudato Si translates to 'Praise be to You My Lord'. The purpose of this Encyclical is to invite all people to protect God's creation, to embrace a positive lifestyle change and to take care of those who are poor and vulnerable.

The 'Care of Creation' is an immediate reality confronting our near neighbours in Oceania. Our Marist missionaries have named the Care for Creation as a priority for their ministries. They are conducting education and training programs, clearing land and waterways, planting trees and mangroves and composting for local crops.

Sr. Lora sm has returned to her island home in Fiji to work with her own people on a Reforestation and Restoration program where the land, trees, local vegetation and water ways have been damaged or cleared for economic and other purposes. (see photo below)

Solar Power is a priority for all our communities and ministries in Oceania. Reliable power is a daily challenge and is vital to support the effective working of computers, equipment and machinery. Sr. Maria Fe smsm, in the Solomon Islands is leading the way at San Isidro, a 'Centre for Young People with Hearing Impairment', by installing solar power panels.

An overview of the programs funded by your donations in 2021 is set out on the back page of the newsletter.

MMC is most grateful for your on-going generous and kindhearted support during these challenging times especially over the last two years.

Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer



Above: Tree Planting - Yasawas



Fr Paul Sullivan sm
MMC Executive Officer

To Donate visit MMC Website:
www.maristmissions.com



FIJI: REFORESTATION & RESTORATION

The people of Oceania are deeply concerned about the long term impact of land clearing and climate change on village and community life. Sr. Lora sm is responding to the invitation of Pope Francis in his letter Laudato Si about the Care of our Common Home. Sr. Lora has returned to her island home of the Yasawas to work with her people on a project of Land Restoration & Reforestation.

This project involves the local families working together and the challenges include – access to the island, land clearing, suitable equipment, establishing a nursery for plants and then planting and watering. The project has been made all the more difficult during COVID as the good work of land clearing quickly becomes overgrown when work is interrupted.



Above: "From little things big things grow"

OCEANIA: LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Fr. Mikaele Tuimavave sm will commence an MA in Educational Leadership at Australian Catholic University (ACU) mid-year. Fr. Mika has been actively involved in the ministry of education in Samoa and will make an important contribution to education on his return. MMC is committed to 'supporting capacity building for ministry' and is funding his course fees at ACU.



Above: Education—a gift of hope

CYCLING FOR CHILDREN 2022



Now that the weather has warmed up in Rome, our Marist seminarians are riding their bikes around the streets of Rome in support of our MMC Cycling for Children Appeal 2022 held at the beginning of the year to build a primary school classroom at Tolomako Mission, Big Bay, Santo, Vanuatu.

We are most grateful for their involvement and thanks to your generosity this project has been very well supported by our MMC donors.

Left: Our Marist Seminarians

EDUCATION - A PASSPORT TO A FUTURE

The people of the Solomon Islands have experienced significant challenges in recent times with COVID and then social and political unrest. The Marist Fathers and Marist Missionary Sisters are both actively involved in the ministry of education.

DALA-ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST COLLEGE - MARIST FATHERS

A 20 year old young man who is physically and intellectually challenged. He is bedridden and cannot provide self care or do anything by himself. His father has abandoned both him and his mother and so it is very difficult for his mother to care for him as he grows older. During Covid times the Centre has assigned a male assistant and female assistant to help with massages and exercises to support him while he is confined to his home.



Right: Supporting Education

SAN ISIDRO - CENTRE FOR HEARING IMPAIRMENT—

— MFIM Project —

MARIST MISSIONARY SISTERS

Hearing impairment in the Solomon Islands leads to personal and social disadvantage and exclusion.

San Isidro was originally established by the Marist Fathers to provide education and practical skills for young men and women, for example, trades, carpentry, sewing, agriculture, cooking and selling their goods at the local market.

The Sisters have now introduced education and language skills including the development of a local sign language. They are installing Solar power at the Centre to provide sufficient power for their educational resources and to reduce costs.



Above: Solar Power—the way of the future in Oceania

THAI/MYANMAR BORDER - REFUGEES

MFIM Project

MMC provides support to two refugee hostels on the Thai/Myanmar border, providing education and accommodation.



Above: The Students



Above: Renovations to a dormitory

MMC - Marist International Mission Projects 2021 Generous hearts supporting projects		
Bangladesh	\$ 34,068	Educational Assistance
Bougainville	\$ 213,346	Education and Health
Cambodia	\$ 75,413	Marist Solidarity - Health and Education
Cameroon	\$ 55,791	Socio—Eco Project and Education
Fiji	\$ 74,599	Community Education and Support
Myanmar	\$ 22,500	Educational—Accommodation Assistance
Oceania and Rome	\$ 455,076	Seminary Support and Marist Missions
Philippines	\$ 65,642	Balay Pasilungan and Balay Banaag programs
Solomon Islands	\$ 197,182	Community Education and Support
South America	\$ 13,497	Community Support
Tanzania	\$ 66,775	Educational Assistance
Thailand	\$ 114,000	Marist Asia Foundation—Health and Education
Vanuatu	\$ 9,500	Educational Assistance
Total Project Funding	\$ 1,397,389	
Funding by:		
Australian Marist Centre for Overseas Aid (AMCOA)		\$ 499,793
Marist Fathers Overseas Mission (MFIM)		\$ 897,596



**Donations over \$2.00
to AMCOA
are tax deductible**

Postal: Locked Bag 5002, GLADESVILLE NSW 1675

Office: 3 Mary St, Hunters Hill NSW 2110, Australia

P: +61 2 9844 2275 **F:** 02 9816 1737

E: admin@maristmissions.com

Visit MMC website for more information: www.maristmissions.com