

# new lands

## NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARIST COMMUNITY

WEBPORTAL: [australianmaristcommunity.com.au](http://australianmaristcommunity.com.au)

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The second Marist International Mission Assembly (II MIMA) is over. Only history will tell if it was an event, a defining moment, or merely another talkfest in rather exotic surrounds! Those of us who were privileged to be there certainly experienced it as an event - for each of us personally and for Marists generally.

Holding the event in Africa had special significance. It was a choice that was made to "shake us up" emotionally and spiritually. There was the colour, music and dance, mostly led by 100 young African Brothers! There were the happy smiles and powerful community singing. There were the orphans, kids with AIDS, high school kids from the slums, single mothers with

multiple partners whom we visited. There were the newspapers with their daily stories of corruption, ebola and terrorist threats. There could have been resentment and negativity but we saw hope and felt a genuine welcome. Africa was then more than a backdrop. African Marists and African Montagnes spoke to our hearts.

Tony Leon captured this brilliantly in his huge 'upside-down' map with Africa at the centre. Our narrow 'home Province' perspective was challenged as was our time-frame. We did not look back to the first two centuries of the Brothers' Institute but to the first decades of the third century of "New Marists in Mission".

Likewise the presence of significant

numbers of women and young Marists impacted on the whole dynamic of the gathering and the vision that emerged. The question in the background all along was "Who will be tomorrow's Marists?". The complementary question is whether we are prepared to be open, serious and determined to build the new relationships that are assumed in the use of the inclusive term, "Marists". Also, are we prepared to invest in and provide pathways for our Young Marists?

There is a statement to come, "Voices of Fire", that communicates in words the consensus we reached around the future of the Marist charism. But also there are the photos on the Marist international website

and the voices of Marists from around the world captured on a short movie we have produced. These communicate not only the fun we had together but also our enthusiasm and spirit of oneness.

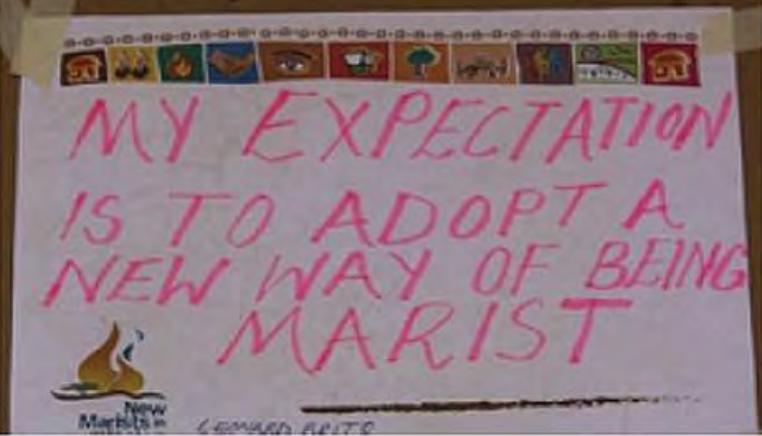
From the outset we were allocated to small groups of reference. I was in a French-speaking group of eight: Emmanuel, a university student from Congo; Donat, married, an experienced teacher also from Congo; Grace, married, principal of a Marist school in Rwanda; Maria, single, a senior teacher from Madagascar; Nikos, married, a classics teacher from Greece, Orthodox; Br Real, animator of a mixed community of Brothers and university students in Canada; Br Antonio, General Councillor



New  
Marists in  
mission

II MARIST INTERNATIONAL  
Mission Assembly





from Brazil. Slowly it dawned on us through the openness and sincerity of our sharing that we were growing into a life-giving community. We were experiencing what was till then, for some of us at least, only an idealistic notion. Of course, much is possible on a short-term basis, but in today's world

the internet provides a way of remaining connected around the world. I am now part of a virtual international community of life! I feel challenged to be part of a similar local community that is real and present. I could write volumes on the inspiring life-stories of these Marists and others present

at II MIMA. I simple want to attest that each one clearly had a spark of Marcellin's charisma. As Joe McKee, Vicar General, mentioned, the centre of Marist life and mission is not the Institute of the Marist Brothers but the charisma of Marcellin. The particular group of 120 Marists who actually

gathered in Nairobi could easily have been replaced many times over by others with equal Marist credentials and commitment. What marvellous companions in life and mission we have! What a wonderful time to be Marist!



## Appointments of Brothers in 2015

- **John Kevin O'Brien** from Murgon to Randwick, retired
- **Julian Quinlan** from St Helen's Park to Murgon, general duties
- **Bill Tarrant** from Canberra to St Helen's Park, working part-time with the Wollongong CEO in spiritual formation
- **John Curry** from Cairns to Forbes, working at Red Bend College
- **Tony Glassick** from Hunters Hill to Cairns as Community Leader, working at St Augustine's College
- **Mark Needham** as Community Leader in Bendigo
- **Tony Paterson** to be Province Archivist, continuing to live at Drummoyne.
- **Brian Etherington** to be part-time archivist, continuing to live at Eastwood. Our thanks to Brian for his service as Province Archivist, a role he started in 1998 as assistant to Br Michael Naughton.
- **Michael McManus** from Templestowe to Bacau, East Timor, working in the further education of staff at the Catholic Teachers' College
- **David Hall** to Australian Catholic University La Salle Academy for

Religious Education, remaining in the community of Randwick Seabird. The position of Principal at Marcellin College has been advertised.

- **John Thompson, John Luttrell, Paul Bailey** continuing in their roles as Community Leaders at Rosalie, North Sydney and Daceyville respectively.
- **Michael Callinan, Justin Golding and Lawrie McCane** as members of the Lavalla Community Project. Initially Michael and Justin will be based at Eastwood while a decision is made on where the community will be established. Lawrie McCane will remain in Canberra with a flexible workload in the College in the first half of the year.

There are other appointments pending.



## Marist Association Next Steps:

Thank you to all who have responded to the Letter of Invitation to indicate your interest in being a member of the Association. The Pastoral Team is following up these expressions of interest personal conversations. Strategies are being developed to ensure that the invitation reaches Marists not involved currently in Marist Ministries, including many Young Marists. A reminder that there is no deadline for responding.

In the coming months, pairs of Marists will visit the Bishops in dioceses where there is a Marist presence. The purpose is to inform them of the emergence of this new Association as a group in the Church who commit themselves to live the Gospel in the manner of St Marcellin, with his charism and spirituality. We need their support in making the application to Rome for canonical recognition.

Before the end of the year, as well, we hope that local groups can gather to talk through the draft Statutes and receive the message of the International Mission Assembly.

## Change of Title

Since 2011, **Joe McCarthy** has held the office of National Director of Lay Marists. His new title will be Director, Marist Association. This better reflects his current responsibilities as Chair of the Association Taskforce, providing leadership of the Association alongside the Provincial (the official Leader of the Association), leadership of the Pastoral Team, and managing the affairs of the Association.

## Marist Australia Mission Assembly

This will be held in late August 2015. The Mission Council is responsible for this event.

We are envisaging this Assembly as a representative gathering of the Marist Association of St Marcellin. There will be around 60 people present.

The Mission Assembly will reflect on and plan strategic directions and priorities for Marist life and mission in Australia in the following three years. It will also assist in the choosing of the Council of the Association, in accordance with its



proposed Constitution.

A steering committee has been named: Joe McCarthy (chair), Tony Clarke, Br Michael Green, Br Greg McDonald, Joseph McDonald, Sarah Nowlan, Erica Pegorer. Our thanks to these people for making themselves available for this important task.



**Marist  
Youth  
Festival  
2015**



**Marist Volunteers Australia** is seeking passionate teachers and other professionals to volunteer in Marist run programs across Asia-Pacific. If you have a desire

to work with children and young people in a distinctly Marist setting, and have the ability to commit to a minimum two month placement, then we would like to hear from you.

A volunteer opportunity encompasses much more than what the word conveys – it is a personal journey where you can take the time to stop, think, reflect and listen. You will be immersed in a foreign culture; live in community with fellow Marists; and work in true Champagnat spirit with those on the margins.

Positions are available throughout 2015 at the New Horizon’s Centre in Vietnam and at the Marist Centre for Migrants in Thailand, whilst one off positions regularly arise right across the region. To view these opportunities and more, plus learn more about Marist Volunteers Australia, head to our website at [www.maristvolunteersaustralia.com.au](http://www.maristvolunteersaustralia.com.au).

**Ashley Bulgarelli**  
**Marist Volunteers Australia Coordinator**  
**[mva@marists.org.au](mailto:mva@marists.org.au)**  
**(07) 3354 0600**

**You're invited to celebrate Christmas with MSol at a centre near you!**

Last year we celebrated Christmas with our supporter network in a new way at Christmas Gatherings in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting our supporters and we're looking forward to doing it again. Here are some dates to mark in your calendar:

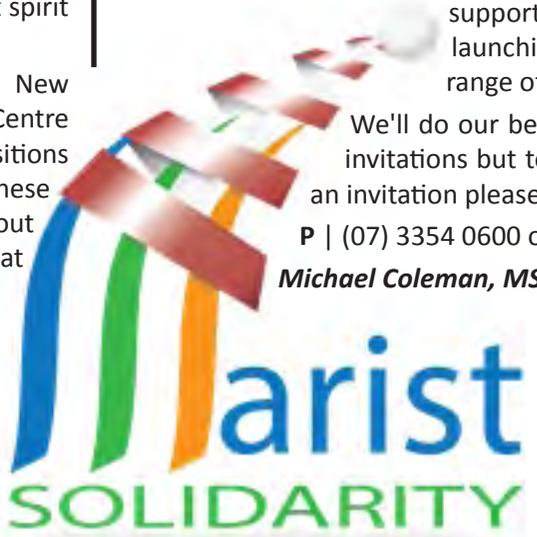
- Brisbane: Monday, 10 November 5.30 to 7.30pm**
- Sydney: Tuesday, 18 November 5.30 to 7.30pm**
- Melbourne: Sunday, 23 November 5.30 to 7.30pm**
- Adelaide: Tuesday, 25 November 5.30 to 7.30pm**

It will once again be a great opportunity to meet with some of the team from Brisbane, to get an update on some of the major works and for us to thank supporters of our work in person. We'll also be launching the 2014 Christmas Appeal containing a range of new life changing projects to support.

We'll do our best to make sure all of our supporters do get invitations but to make sure you or someone you know gets an invitation please contact us on the details below.

**P | (07) 3354 0600 or E | [msol@marists.org.au](mailto:msol@marists.org.au)**

**Michael Coleman, MSol Team - Brisbane**





**Marist Youth Care (MYC)** has been working with families and young people who are in community detention since 2010. Earlier this year MYC was successful in winning the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Contract (UHM) contracted to 2015 and Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Contract until the 30th June 2018.

UHM provides assistance to eligible Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors who have been granted a visa and referred by the Department. The program supports 28 young people, looking after their welfare and well-being, their successful settlement in the Australian community, and effective transition to adulthood. All the young people will be under 18 and will be settled in the Greater Sydney region.

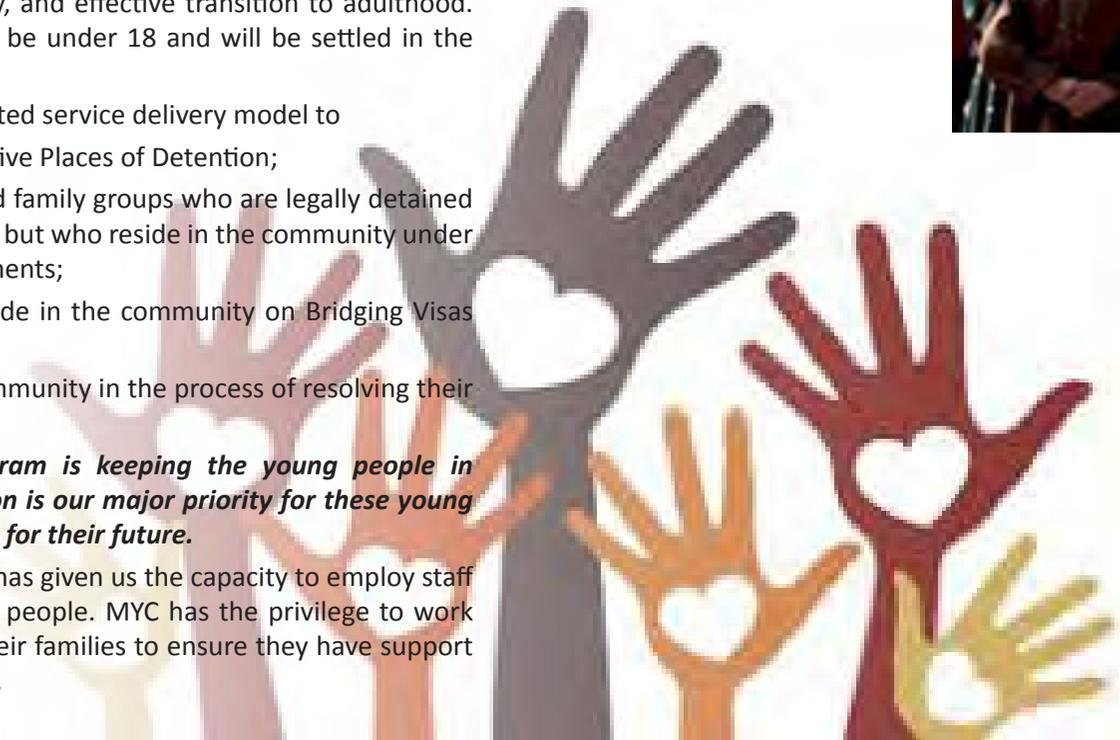
SRSS provides services using an integrated service delivery model to

- Unaccompanied Minors in Alternative Places of Detention;
- Unaccompanied Minors, adults and family groups who are legally detained under the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) but who reside in the community under Residence Determination arrangements;
- Adults and family groups who reside in the community on Bridging Visas and other Temporary Visas; and
- Other vulnerable people in the community in the process of resolving their immigration status.

***The greatest challenge in this program is keeping the young people in education after they turn 18. Education is our major priority for these young people as we know this will be the key for their future.***

This is very exciting work for MYC as it has given us the capacity to employ staff who speak the language of the young people. MYC has the privilege to work with traumatised young people and their families to ensure they have support on their journey into Australian society.

***If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with English language development for people in our program, you could contact Janice Williams  
email [janicew@maristyc.com.au](mailto:janicew@maristyc.com.au)  
ph 9672 9210***





**Br Emili** offered those leaving Nairobi the “image or parable of the swamp” to express where we are going.

The space in which we are called to carry out our mission is similar to a swamp or marsh, which is found between land and ocean, in a marginal locality, where no one would normally go to live.

If someone is there, it is because he has been excluded, he goes there to find others who are sunk in the mire, without possibility of a future. A place of danger, disease, where you do not know what is beneath your feet.

There are no tracks, but you have to move forward. It is hard to walk in the middle of the mud, it requires a particular strength not to give up, not to turn back.

At the same time, it is a place of biodiversity, full of life. A mysterious place which recalls the creation of the world, with the Spirit moving over the chaos, offering the possibility of a new creation, a new beginning.



You can download a full overview of the days of the International Mission Assembly [here](#). It is in pdf format



# Canberra Marists Mittagong Hermitage Tour 2014



*"Thank you all for providing a wonderful day away from the every day. All three of us came away feeling refreshed and blessed for having had new insights, yummy food, great wines and an opportunity to go deeper in our relationship with Marist. We look forward to going along next year!"*  
Ann Hartwell, Marist Mother



On Sunday 31 August, twenty Canberra Marists boarded a coach and made their way to The Marist Brothers Hermitage at Mittagong for a day which included wine tastings from their award winning vineyard, delicious morning tea and lunch, visit to the beautiful LaValla chapel, the opportunity to enjoy the property and a moment or two to reflect on what it means to be a Marist today. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a lovely time soaking up all that the Hermitage has to offer.

Thanks to Tara Blacker for her organisation of the day and especially to Ann Hartwell and Br Lawrie McCane for their inspiring presentation on Being Marist and facilitation of the day. Thanks to Br Tony and Br Bill for hosting us and looking after our needs at the Hermitage. It was a successful day and well worth repeating next year. The photos tell the story and highlight just how beautiful and deeply spiritual the Hermitage is a place of pilgrimage for Marists.



## CANBERRA MARISTS Events 2014

- 20<sup>th</sup> February Commencement Mass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March Australian Marist Solidarity Launch
- 17<sup>th</sup> March International Assembly Gathering
- 18<sup>th</sup> April Way of the Cross
- 5<sup>th</sup> May Mothers' Mass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June Champagnat Day Celebrations
- 31<sup>st</sup> August Tour Hermitage in Mittagong
- 21<sup>st</sup> November Advent Prayer and BBQ at the Monastery
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December Community Carols
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Young Marists Exchange Night (each month)

*\*Other guest speakers and workshops may arise throughout the year.*