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THE STAFF JOURNAL OF MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

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- Many New Schools Join MSA
- A Champagnat Inspired Youth Group...
  Noosaville



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### **LAVALLA**

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#### Lavalla

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Lavalla, the name given to this magazine, is taken from the village in France where St Marcellin Champagnat established the world's first

Marist school in 1817. There are now Marist schools in 80 countries.

#### Cover:

Rex Cambrey Scholarship Recipients: Bendigo



### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

2020 will be remembered as the year the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world. Captured in the pages of this edition of Lavalla magazine, is indisputable evidence of the strength of the human spirit to overcome great adversity. Remarkable stories of Faith, achievement, growth and hope provide inspiration and encouragement. Whilst contributions from our schools are always appreciated, in these challenging times they are especially so. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of the Editor, Brother Michael Flanagan fms, and thank him on behalf of all our Marist schools. Since March, Mick has been holed up in "lockdown" in the Brothers Community in Hunters Hill. Despite limitations, he has persevered, and the resultant publication provides a welcome read of good news!

The highly infectious nature of the virus has shocked the world and certainly many parts of Australia, not least Victoria, enduring two significant lockdowns. The disruption to normal school life and restrictions to our Marist way of providing a holistic Catholic education have been marked. It has been a privilege over these months to share with Principals across the country their ongoing challenges, joys and successes during this natural disaster. The nature of the contagion and its spread has seen vastly different experiences within specific time frames for individual schools, however there have been two constants across our network worthy of highlighting.

First has been the priority for families in need of financial support. Schools made additional provision early in the outbreak to assist families and ensure not one student would be denied a Catholic education at a Marist College due to financial impacts from COVID-19. On behalf of all Catholic schools, the Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission, Ms Jacinta Collins stated at the end of March that financial relief was immediately available to families impacted by the virus.

Heartening have been reports of families across our network providing additional funds to schools in order to



assist them in supporting families in need. In some cases, families significantly impacted themselves increased their financial contributions with this same purpose in mind. This collective commitment to the peerless gift of a quality Catholic education for young Australians reflects well what we Marists believe important.

Second has been the manner in which we have remained connected despite the unprecedented restrictions on travelling and gathering. The rapid development of online learning and the dedication of our teachers in that environment is a story filled with heroism. Throughout the pandemic the Mission and Life Formation Team has been agile in developing new ways of working with school communities. A real highlight has been the daily prayer provided during these many months. As a nation-wide Marist community, we have joined together each day in prayer seeking strength, understanding and hope from God. The online formation programmes that have been specifically developed for the current context have seen in total some thousands of participants online from our Marist schools.

As we continue to face together an uncertain future, let us pray the following words in a spirit of hope:

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the Minds of women and men of medical Science who are working to find a Solution to this viral infection.
Guide their research and help them discover What you provide in creation, sure ways Of control, protection, inoculation And healing. Strengthen them in their Tiring work and enrich in them the Virtue of hope. Amen

Dr Frank Malloy National Director

## **HSC SUCCESS IS MORE THAN JUST AN ATAR**

Today, the Marcellin Graduate can expect to transition into a vastly different career pathway to that of generations past. The linear career progression that their parents once undertook is no longer the norm. Research suggests that the Marcellin Graduate of 2020, will experience employment in 17 different jobs, across 5 distinct careers. Compounding this uncertainty is the reality that many jobs of the future do not exist today.

While the Marcellin graduate still needs to be highly proficient in the traditional domains of education, such as literacy and numeracy, employers today are equally interested in the less tangible skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork. They are seeking graduates who are flexible, who are resilient to change and who see employment as a continuum of their own learning.

In recent years Marcellin College has responded to the growing number of students looking to develop their skills outside the traditional post-school pathway of tertiary study. With an increased demand within the employment sector for employees who possess the soft skills needed to take on vocational careers, Marcellin has put itself at the forefront of providing students with the opportunity to develop these skills whilst continuing their journey at school.

The HSC Plus Pathway at Marcellin provides students with the opportunity to achieve their Higher School Certificate, plus a nationally recognised qualification. Marcellin College has invested in facilities to provide Certificate II in Construction pathways, Certificate II in Business Services and Certificate II in Hospitality Kitchen Operations. Students have enjoyed great success in these courses and the College is proud to have trained award winning students recognised at the World Skills National Championships.

With the growth in HSC Plus students, it has become clear that being able to combine vocational education with their continued development as Marcellin men, has provided these students with the best start to their careers. Marcellin College continues to be committed to helping young men grow from when they arrive as young boys into adults who are global citizens of the world. By providing the opportunity to continue into senior schooling as HSC Plus students, ensures that Marist values are instilled as they enter the wider world.

Despite the unique challenges of 2020, Marcellin College has been able to support students in beginning their apprenticeships as part of the School Based Apprenticeship/ Traineeship program. This program sees the College, working in partnership with NSW TAFE and local businesses, support



Construction

students in work based training whilst still fulfilling the requirements of attaining a Higher School Certificate. The opportunities Marcellin men are able to take up have included apprenticeships in electro-technology, plumbing, carpentry and retail. One student has even been able to take full advantage of the College's location and complete Certificate III in Racing, working at Royal Randwick Racecourse. In observing these students develop on their learning journeys VET Coordinator Kathryn Hughes notes: "It has been wonderful to see the love of work in action as these students share our Marist values with the wider community."

As the world and the workforce continues to change, Marcellin College is proud to be supporting Marcellin men to find and develop their passions as HSC Plus students.





Construction

### **KASEY'S KINDNESS GROWS**

Mt Maria College student Kasey Pitcher made a generous donation at the end of Semester 1 this year, cutting off 33cm of her long hair to donate to an organisation that makes wigs for children who are experiencing hair loss from medical conditions like alopecia or cancer.

Year 8 student Kasey considers herself to be a 'hair farm'. This is the second time Kasey has cut off her long hair to donate to those in need.

When asked what inspired her to do this, Kasey said she recalled her grandmother needing a wig due to a medical illness that resulted in hair loss.

"I wanted to help people like my grandma, so in Year 6, I decided to cut off my hair and donate it to help out," Kasey said.

"It is an easy way for me to help other people have things that I often take for granted."

Her plan is to regrow her hair to cut and donate it every 18 months.

Kasey said she loved receiving the name, age, photo, and bio of the kids who have received wigs made from her hair.

Kasey hopes that by sharing her story, it might inspire you to do the same.



Mt Maria College Year 8 student Kasey Pitcher donated 33cm of her hair to make wigs for children who experience hair loss from medical conditions.

#### ARTIST SUCCESS AT MT MARIA COLLEGE



Mt Maria College wishes to congratulate Year 10 student Setayish Abdi, whose portrait of her grandfather was shortlisted for the 'Young Archie' competition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

This year, the College entered five students in the 'Young Archie' competition. The 'Young Archie' competition was created for young artists across Australia and typically has over 2000 entries per year. This competition runs in conjunction with the Art Gallery of New South Wales portrait prize 'The Archibald Prize' which is considered one of the most prestigious awards in Visual Art in Australia.

Mt Maria College Year 10 student Setayish Abdi with her portrait which was shortlisted for the 'Young Archie' competition. Curriculum Leader for the Arts at Mt Maria College, Ms Nancy La Rosa-Elliott, said that this is an achievement to be proud of for Setayish.

"Being shortlisted for this most prestigious award is an amazing achievement," said Ms La Rosa-Elliott.

"We congratulate Setayish on this wonderful accomplishment and look forward to seeing her artistic ability continue to bloom through her senior schooling."

Below is the beautifully written artist statement by Setayish, which accompanies her portrait titled: "Grandad."

#### "Grandad" by Setayish Abdi

"A young boy who instead of a school uniform wore the uniform of a man. This is a journey of a boy who lost everything in WWII. He fled his country and all that had ever defined him. Like two 'merging paths', one from the East and him from

the West, we meet. He sees his reflection within me, a girl with a hopeless past but also with a sweltering determination. He has loved and supported me more than anyone could. In this oil painting portrait, I have aimed to capture his past grief and sacrifice through his eyes but a hopeful and blessed future within his smile. His wrinkles are so deeply engraved that they tell of a 'man', no longer a boy. His name is Eric and I call him Grandad."

## MUSIC STUDENTS SHINE ONLINE

Mt Maria College has been filled with music as Mt Maria Music students prepare for their very first virtual ensemble concert. Typically held at the end of each semester for College families, COVID-19 restrictions have meant the ensemble concert will be streamed online for families to enjoy in their own homes.

College ensembles of all musical levels are involved in the concert, with the event set to feature the Year 7 Beginner Band, Chamber Strings, Wind Band, Percussion

Ensemble, and the College Choir.

While ensemble rehearsals have looked (and sounded!) very different this term, Music Program Leader, Ms Alex Khafagi, is confident the students are ready to shine online.

"The students have been rehearsing online and in person all term and are thrilled to be showcasing their hard work to the College community," said Ms Khafagi.

Mt Maria Music has grown significantly

over the last year, with now more than 200 students enrolled in the College's Instrumental Program.

The College's various ensembles regularly perform at community events and in local festivals, including the Queensland Catholic Schools & Colleges Music Festival and RockFest.

The full Mt Maria Music virtual concert is now available for viewing on the College website. Head to www.mtmaria.qld.edu.au for more details.



## RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE RETURNS TO BANGLADESH

In 2019, Red Bend Catholic College continued the development of our relationship with St Marcellin School in Giasnogor, Bangladesh. A group of six students and four staff members were invited to participate in a life changing immersion opportunity.

Established in 2017, St Marcellin School educates children of Bangladeshi tea garden workers, all of whom earn less than \$2 per day.

In 2018, the former Red Bend Catholic College principal, Brother Michael Flanagan, saw an opportunity to establish a connection between our two schools. He wanted to give students and staff the chance to see how this project supports some of the most vulnerable members of society in Bangladesh.

On Saturday 22nd June 2019, six Year 10 and Year 11 students plus four staff members departed Forbes, destined for Giasnogor.

On arrival at the airport in Dhaka over 24 hours later, the group was met by Br Eugenio from St Marcellin School and quickly introduced to the local culture.

For some of our students, this was the first time that they had travelled overseas and what an experience it was!

The group witnessed tea-picking and learnt about the effect of this industry on the marginalised of society. They also had the opportunity to visit the families of St Marcellin students to understand the impact of the Marist Brothers' work.

These experiences gave both the students



and staff new perspectives and understanding about the issues facing others in this part of the world.

Many students found the immersion experience challenging and at times even confronting. The College Captain, Olivia, remarked how "experiencing what women are subjected to in a country such as Bangladesh has changed me for the better".

Ultimately, all students found the experience highly rewarding and transformational.

On the return to Australia, the group enjoyed a stopover in Singapore to reflect and recharge. They enjoyed a dinner at Marina Bay Sands and visited Universal Studios before boarding the flight home.

By Western standards, the costs associated with enhancing educational outcomes for students at St Marcellin School are comparatively small. So far, Red Bend Catholic College has successfully fundraised to install an internet connection at the school. We continue to support St Marcellin students and staff through our 'Return and Earn' recycling program. This is an excellent initiative which all members of our school community can participate in at zero cost.

We look to the future where we hope to continue to be able to provide students and staff the opportunity to experience this wonderful project first-hand.





## STUDENTS SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Earlier in the year, senior students at Catholic College Sale undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) were planning to partner with local volunteer group BlazeAid in bushfire relief programs. The repair and construction of agricultural fences was the chosen project, but all preliminary planning was put on hold, and subsequently abandoned, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

VCAL staff and students enacted 'Plan B' as soon as the period of remote learning ended in May. Following advice from BlazeAid about how the College could reset its contribution to relief programs, students commenced construction of dog kennels, mailboxes and bird boxes. They had missed a significant amount of 'hands-on' learning and instruction during the remote learning period, so an intensive eight-day integrated VCAL unit was implemented as soon as they returned to school.

In the last week of June, VCAL Coordinator, Tim Johnson, and Trade Skills Centre Officer, Roger Bradley, delivered multiple items to East Gippsland families identified by BlazeAid. The deliveries included other care-package items provided by the school community.

"A key feature of a successful school and



L to R VCAL student Chelsea Conn, VCAL Coordinator Tim Johnson and VCAL Student Jamie Corbett.

community partnerships is that all partners benefit from the collaboration," said Principal Chris Randell. "Not only was BlazeAid delighted with the outcomes, but our VCAL students fulfilled the requirements of several units of study associated with vocational skills and project planning and delivery. They also experienced in tangible ways the rewards of outreach and support for their East Gippsland neighbours so

badly impacted by the bushfires."

Principal, Chris Randell also noted: "The support of our local businesses and the high regard our local community has for our graduates is resulting in increased demand for places in the 2021 VCAL program. This will see the expansion of our VCAL Centre and continued investment in infrastructure within our Trade Skills Centre."



## SACRED HEART COLLEGE LAUREATE ASSEMBLY

The College honoured and celebrated the significant academic achievements of our Year 12 students from 2019, our Laureates, on Wednesday, 12 February 2020. As a College we were extremely proud of the overall performance of our Year 12's last year. 2019 completed four successive years of 100% SACE completion, accounting for more than 1,300 students.

Our very special guest His Excellency Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, spoke to the Sacred Heart Community and presented our 2019 College Dux, Imogen Power, with her College Dux certificate. Imogen then addressed the assembly in a humble and gentle manner, reminding us of the importance of consistency, resilience and hard work, attributes that she believes helped her to achieve outstanding results in Year 12. She shared

Tyson Rowe and Deputy Principal, Shana Bennett. her insights to completing a successful Year 12 and outlined her own experience of comparing herself to others before realising that she was running her own Year 12 race!

"So my biggest advice would be to run your own race. As I've now seen, literally anything can happen in Year 12, you don't know what the final result will be until the very end. I think the most important thing is to focus on yourself and be

Liam Chapman and College Council Chair, Paul Teisseire.

consistent rather than extreme because big things are achieved not all at once, but one day at a time."

Congratulations also to our 2019 Dux Proxime Accessit, Tyson Rowe, for his outstanding results and to Jack Kelton, recipient of the 2019 Governor of South Australia Commendation! To our 2019 Year 10 Dux, Ahsan Iqbal and 2019 Year 11 Dux, Eimear Henry; an outstanding achievement by two dedicated and passionate learners.

I extend my congratulations to all our laureates on their fantastic achievements and my sincere gratitude to all those who worked behind the scenes to ensure the Assembly was so special and significant.

Shana Bennett Principal – Term 1 2020

Sarah Sandercock and Br Gregory McCrystal.





Boarder Laureates, Lucy Tucker, Samuel Bruhn, Marcus Lippett, Tanner Morris, Jordan Patterson, Jorja Roswell and Zoe Morris.



Sacred Heart's 2019 Laureates and Shana

## LAUNCH OF THE MICHAEL **HERBERT MEMORIAL BURSARY**

Wednesday, 12 February 2020 was a very important day for the College; we held the Assembly for the 2019 Laureates but also launched a new and significant bursary, the Michael Herbert Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bursary. This dedicated bursary is a special way for our Hearts Community to recognise the service and sacrifice of our Old Scholars who have been members of the Australian Defence Forces. We were honoured that the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Hieu Van Le AC, was present with us along with Michael's brother, Shane Herbert, Bill Denny, Veteran Old Scholars and leaders of the nine ex-service organisations who have generously helped the College fund the Michael Herbert Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bursary.

The Bursary is named in honour of Flying Officer Michael Herbert ('63). Michael attended Sacred Heart College from 1957 (Grade 6) to 1963 (Leaving Honours). In February 1970, Michael was posted to Vietnam as a pilot, but his plane vanished on a routine bombing mission in November 1970. On Saturday 18 July 2009, 38 years and nine months after Michael's aircraft went missing, Australian servicemen were led to a wreckage site and the remains of Michael and his fellow serviceman, Robert Carver, were found. Both men were brought back to Australian soil, where

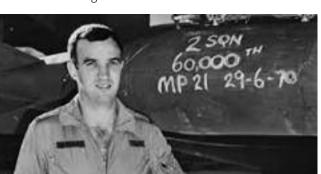
they were nationally recognised as the last Vietnam War servicemen, listed as 'Missing In Action', to be found.

The Michael Herbert Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bursary will be awarded at the end of 2020 to a current Year 11 student for Courageous Service to Others.

Murdoch Ballantyne ('60) and Robin Carbins, Treasurer, Vietnam Veterans Federation (SA Branch).



His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC.



Flying Officer Michael Herbert



Mal Thiele, President, Vietnam Veterans Federation (SA Branch), Mike Hainsworth, Secretary, Vietnam Veterans Federation (SA Branch), and Lee Bowes, President, Defence Force Welfare Association (SA Branch).

#### PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH SCHOOL

#### CREATIVE CONNECT

Creative Connect started with a vision to create and communicate unique content through collaboration that allows learning to happen in the spheres of technology and digital media. The purpose of it is to inspire others and be inspired by the creativity and critical thinking skills unique to each individual. Creative Connect focuses on the following areas: photography, videography, video editing, animation, content music, motion graphics, visual effects, 3D rendering and app and website design development. It is aimed at all year and skill levels.

At Creative Connect we have five teams. Each team focuses on projects involving the school or any external clients and connections. Each team has a mentor (an expert within the field) allocated to run sessions during Fridays at lunch time to educate and collaborate various ideas in their respective development teams. Currently we have Zachary Chadszinow, Jett Decolongon, James Ehn, Sergio Sfark-Iglik and Elijah Uy who mentor teams of approximately 3-5 members on various projects. Zachary focuses on sound engineering and content music development for all the projects we do as a team. Jett is the main editor of Creative Connect and his team invests many hours after school editing content requested by staff and clients. James focuses on project



Tom Biddle masterclass on videography



Creative Connect Parra Marist team

management and is currently working on collecting content for a school assembly video that will showcase the work we do as a team. Sergio focuses on digital media to create illustrations, logos, images and app and website development. Elijah focuses on photography and videography and runs many sessions with his team to ensure they are ready for various school and client events. Mr. Fernando coordinates these mentors and helps them develop their leadership and organisational skills to run the development sessions. He also focuses on a unique team that works with motion graphics and visual effects to create outstanding content. All our work is displayed in the school's Galler.e.

The Creative Connect have been working in various school events such as the school assemblies, Illumination 2019, Street Theatre Cafe, Swimming Carnival, Champagnat Day, Year 7 Open Day, Year 9, 10 & 12 Art Excursion, Shrove Tuesday, MCS Cricket Promotion 2019-2020, Marist vs Seminarians basketball game and the Commencement Mass. The team has also been working with a few external clients. Our mentors Jett and James had the privilege to produce content for a black tie event launch of the Dona Faith Alliance - a non-for-profit organisation that promotes, protects and enforces human rights. Let's just say they were working with highly ranked content creators from Australia! Our mentor Elijah has been working with local food businesses to produce promotional content. Currently,

he is looking forward to working with a personal trainer who recently started his small business in Western Sydney. Elijah's work is helping new and old businesses to reach out to their audience in the midst of COVID-19. He has also been able to start his own business outside of the school to kick start his career as a content creator and filmmaker. Sergio has been working with a client who has recently reached out to us to create a logo and website for his new online, non-for-profit apparel brand. This client is a content creator himself who works with sporting professionals and the youth in Sydney. He is excited to have Sergio and his team develop a logo and website for the youth, by the youth. Zach is continuing to produce various music and his own compositions allowing him to work with Elijah and his small business clients. These mentors also meet with Mr. Fernando during the week to discuss leadership, strategies and ways to expand their portfolio.

Creative Connect has come a long way since it started. Our teams and projects have significantly grown in just 1 year (the group images below is evidence of this). However, we remain close to our vision where it all started. We are looking forward to expanding our presence within the school and partnering with future clients to give real exposure to our students while remaining true to our core values of encouraging creativity and collaboration at Parramatta Marist High.

#### CONFIDENCE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Over the last few months our community and the world have been faced with many challenges. We have all experienced different forms of isolation with some people facing serious illness within their own homes and across the wider community. Most recently, we were called to recognise and reconcile during both National Reconciliation Week and Refugee Week; in regards to this, Pope Francis reminds us:

Jesus invites us not to be afraid, to be strong and confident in the face of life's challenges, because even when we encounter setbacks, our lives rest firmly in God's hands, who loves us and takes care of us.

Through all these experiences, our Marist community, staff and students have continued to unite in Prayer which has taken on many forms. We continued to pray the Rosary and the Angelus but over zoom! We recorded the Angelus and scheduled it to be played at Midday via youtube and we streamed Sunday Masses from Parishes around the world. To be able to keep our faith alive during such a difficult time was incredible and a reminder that we can always find time for Jesus in our lives, at any place, at any time.

During virtual schooling the Faith and Mission team asked the boys to be proactive at home and online. They were able to share loving messages with their Mothers, reminding them of the love they have and thanking them for all they do. Families also shared their prayer spaces with us.

We were fortunately back in time to celebrate St Marcellin's Feast Day, with a class liturgy and a mufti day to raise funds for Marist Solidarity. Our boys and their families illustrated that no matter how

difficult their life may be, they can always contribute to help those in greater need. The school looks forward to celebrating this important day on the 30th October (hopefully) together with the whole Marist community.

Finally, we are thrilled that Mass has now returned for the students and we celebrated Mass in the LaValla Chapel with Fr Walter recently. We look forward to a time when our teachers can return to the chapel and celebrate Mass also.



### **MISSION UPDATE**

#### St Vincent's Winter **Hamper Appeal**

This Month saw the launch of our yearly St Vincent's Winter Hamper appeal. Students have been encouraged to bring in items to feed the homeless and the less fortunate. As COVID-19 continues to impact the lives of all, St Vincent's Winter Appeal will also help those with loss of income who are struggling to put food on the table. This appeal is also calling on new clothing items for those who will be out on the

streets this winter. Although we have had a great amount of donations this year of both food and clothing, we ask for continued donations to this great cause especially during the current climate.

#### Winter Sleep out

Thursday 4th June saw the Year 12's conduct their annual sleep out as a way to raise both money and awareness for homelessness in Australia. Currently, there are over 100,000 homeless people living in Australia. The Year 12 students first learnt about homelessness in a variety of sessions before having to experience it themselves by sleeping outside at school on cardboard and having limited food for dinner and breakfast. Through their fundraising prior to the event, the Year 12's and teachers involved raised a staggering \$3,400 for the St Vincent De Paul Charity who will now use this money to help those less fortunate. For the students and teachers however, this was an extremely humbling experience which offered a renewed perspective on society and how still, we can do more to support those in need.

#### VIRTUAL SCHOOLING THROUGH A STUDENT'S EYES

The year 2019 ended with the curiosity of a new virus that was brought into our world. No one knew what it was, where it had come from and how deadly it could be. 2020 came along at a speed like no other but then slowly stopped as the economy and world started to shut down. Many people lost their jobs having no idea

on how they are to support their families. The Australian government has spent \$130 billion dollars in keeping people from starving and homeless, with another \$66 billion dollars in keeping for pension and free health care. Many people such as mums, dads, children and grandchildren have lost someone special in their lives

due to this pandemic and we keep those families in mind. Australia has got it really easy compared to the rest of the world with 98 deaths and on the other hand America with 83,000 deaths. This year has been challenging for many people and especially the children as they are suffering from disturbed education,

struggling parents and diverse perceptions from the influence of the media.

But now we are back at school. Many people think that a second wave is going to come but we have been doing really well and need to keep it that way. Online schooling was an experience like no other and it had its moments. The positives consisted of sleeping in (which was nice), eating whatever you want without a schedule (with the consequence of putting on a few kilograms), playing games without being interrupted, more free time to get more time to do other things, and for teachers...the dream come true of being able to mute students with a touch of a button.

Virtual schooling though had its ups and downs. It got a bit infuriating at times due to the constant viewing of the same four walls and there were also some internet issues due to the majority of Australia's population being on the internet. Furthermore, for sanitary

purposes, many of us boys have missed the jokes that are chucked around in class and just, in general, each other...from the conversations that we have on the playground to the conversations that are conducted with our teachers.

Probably the hardest part in quarantine would be the getting back into routine and dreading the sharp cold air, and the shiver that you receive early in the tiring mornings at school. It wasn't too hard to get into a routine as we were quite used to it, but the hard parts were getting back to waking up on your alarm instead of snoozing it 5000 times and carrying those dreadful bags which weigh a tonne. Finally, for parents, students and teachers the rush in the mornings were the most challenging as everything that we need to do was on a time limit and then arriving and waiting in the very long line just to get in and out of the school.

Well, what can we say....Back to reality.

We are now at school, and the sun is shining and the skies are blue because not every second word is COVID-19 anymore. The media are still on the lookout for another dramatic story to scare everyone, but we are happy to be back in a routine and carry on with our days. Us boys working to be men at Parramatta Marist are happy to be in the classroom with all of our mates and work hard for exams, projects and a lot of homework. Even the teachers are happy to see us back at school (If they really mean that...we don't know) but face to face contact and learning is much better than a screen, but everyone has their own opinions. At the end of the day, as long as we have got through this tough time and we are still one strong community at PMH with Marcelin's help as well as the students, teachers, parents, faith and our motto. Fortio Ito.

Jonathan Nemeh Year 9 Parramatta Marist High School

#### THE MARIST ASSOCIATION

## LIVING ST MARCELLIN'S DREAM

Marcellin Champagnat was a man of strong conviction! His passion was to make Jesus known and loved, and his special concern was to do this for and amongst youth – particularly those at the margins.

All Marists, Brothers and lay, share in this mission. There are many ways of living out such a commitment. As readers would be aware, one way to express this in the Australia of today is through membership of the Marist Association.

This vibrant and growing movement seeks to embody Marcellin's vision. It does so in several different dimensions and is a great way of being Marist in the world.

There is a rich vein of Marist spirituality to be tapped. There is the experience of family spirit and community that is so central to Marist identity. For those who work with our young people, there is Marcellin's approach to pedagogy — which emphasises the love and care of each individual. Finally, for those involved in mission — that is to say everybody — there is the practical,



can-do Marist approach to serving others.

Over the past few months, it has been particularly impressive to see this calling lived out in the face of the challenges thrown up by COVID. Several Local Groups have gathered virtually when they could not do so physically. Online events involving the whole Association have proven popular and have provided a great sense of connection.

All of this, of course, contributes to the

Marist presence and charism in our schools. It also provides tremendous benefits to Association members themselves.

I would like to commend all in the Association, and particularly Local Group leaders, for the way they have ministered to those around them and to their fellow members. May we continue to make St Marcellin proud!

Michael Evison, Coordinator of Membership, Marist Association

#### TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE LISMORE

## WINTER APPEAL 2020





Winter Appeal 2020 was something different from the past years, as we had to experience our fundraising during a time of a World pandemic. The aim of our Winter Appeal is educating the community of Trinity Catholic College about the issue of homelessness. The initiatives of the Winter Appeal enabled students to not only develop an understanding of how we as a community can assist those living with disadvantage, but also to change their mindset and break down the stigma around homelessness. The items donated went directly to the Winsome in Lismore and the funds raised to St Vincent de Paul Society. As a College, we can change the way homelessness is viewed in a 2020 Society.

To launch the Winter Appeal, we asked Year 7 and 8 to contribute travel sized tissues and travel soaps, Year 9 and 10 toothbrushes and toothpaste and lastly Year 11 and 12 socks. Our Year 9 Youth Ministry class assisted in sorting and packing of these items. Overall, we donated over 10 tubs of goods for the Winsome to distribute to those who desperately need it in our community.

Members of our Mission Team delivered these items to the Winsome on the last day of Term 2. As we arrived, we met a man who was asking for socks. We were able to provide these for him. This stressed the importance that these simple items had for the people experiencing homelessness within the town of Lismore. It put into perspective how most of us may take a pair of socks, a bar of soap or

a toothbrush for granted.

Due to the current circumstances, our annual Winter Sleepout was unable to go ahead. Our Year 9 and Year 10 classes were able to focus on a range of activities that once again centred on issues arising around homelessness. Activities included: budget meal planning, budget living, scenarios and activities that illustrated the various types of homelessness. Students were given15 minutes to pack a bag to leave and to make a home or "living area" out of cardboard (resources found on the streets). These activities emphasised the need for awareness of the issues of people without a place to live. Our CSYMA classes left these lessons realizing that there is a stigma around this issue and it is their duty to help break it.

'Second Hand Harmony Sale' was introduced to the College in 2019 and continued this year. The College Community was encouraged to bring in clothes that they do not wear anymore for our very own Op-Shop sale at school during lunchtime with all clothes available for purchase for a gold coin. Special thanks to the Year 10 CSYMA class for setting this up. Students were also encouraged to wear dress '90's Op-Shop Casual Day' on the last day of Term. The casual day was a hit, many outfits ranging from double denim, big prints and bright coloured jackets. The funds raised from the casual day and the seconds sale will be donated to St Vincent De Paul Society.

A huge thank you and congratulations has to go to the 2020 Ministry Captains

Sophie and James and the Mission Team, for all their efforts in organising, running, assisting and advertising the Winter Appeal. This year the Ministry Captains have had an uncertain time with COVID interrupting their plans, but the Winter Appeal produced outstanding results — raising \$1,300.00. Thank you to all the students, the College and Ministry staff in particular and the families who donated either goods or funds for the Winter Appeal. Trinity helping those in need "In Word and Deed".



## THE PYP TAKES OFF AT ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE

Since St Gregory's College Junior School opened in 2018, we have been on a learning journey as we seek to develop and build an inspiring, nurturing and dynamic learning environment. With our foundation staff coming from many different educational systems, we were challenged to think about how students learn best. Through collaborative discussion as a staff, exploration of different models of education and finally school visits, we made the decision to adopt the IB PYP (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme).

The PYP is designed for students aged 5 to 12 years of age. It focuses on the total growth of the developing child, touching hearts as well as minds and encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs in addition to academic development. The PYP aligns itself nicely to the St Gregory's College mission of 'providing and promoting holistic education which strives to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural and physical potential of young people'.

The PYP draws on research and best practice from a range of national systems with a wealth of knowledge and experience from international schools to create a relevant, engaging, challenging and significant educational framework for



all children. The PYP is an internationally recognised learning framework that provides students, teachers and parents with a common language for learning in the form of the Learner Profile.

A PYP student at St Gregory's College:

• is open-minded to others and the world around them

- is knowledgeable and willing to take risks in their learning
- develops an inquiring mindset that values and takes responsibility for their own learning
- displays empathy, compassion and respect and is inspired to take action
- is internationally-minded.





The PYP Classroom at St Gregory's College is a lively place, characterised by collaborative and purposeful activity. As you enter the classrooms, you will notice that it is a reflective place, where thoughtful issues, problems and successes are valued highly. Students' work is displayed around the room and their thinking is clearly visible through post-it notes and butchers' paper. Collaboration is not only visible amongst students in classrooms but is a vital component for the planning process for staff.

The PYP is the vehicle that will help the school community develop their vision and mission of the College. The framework allows students to inquire into, and learn about, globally significant issues in the context of units of inquiry.

We are pleased to announce that over the mid-year break St Gregory's College Junior School was notified that our application for Candidacy as a PYP (Primary Years Program) School has been accepted. We are now a candidate school for the PYP. Over the next two years, the College will develop an action plan that will ensure that we work towards becoming an authorised International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in 2022. This significant moment in our journey is a reflection of the hard work and progress made in the development of a rigorous, student-centred curriculum and the school-wide commitment to best practice teaching and learning. Like all International Baccalaureate Schools, St Gregory's College Junior School has the common philosophy of the commitment to high-quality, challenging, international education that we believe is important for our students.

Great schools consist of great people and we are truly blessed to have amazing people as a part of the St Gregory's College community. It is such a wonderful time to be a part of the St Gregory's College community. The College embraces change, has a vision that is solid, staff who are passionate and students who are thriving under the great community that has been created over the history of the College.

As our College motto states, 'you will reap what you sow'.

#### **BRIDGE BUILDERS**

## IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS

ABCTV Premiere and iView - Sunday, 5 July 2020 from 21:30-23:00 UTC+10



Brad (Centre) and Pat (far Right) meet Dujuan (Centre) with ERI interns and Br Brian Bond cfc.

Marists may remember that Pat Cooke (ex-St Greg's) and Brad Murphy (ex-PMH), who are presently law students, engaged in an internship with FMSI in Geneva in late 2019. They were accompanied by Neville Solomon and later Chris Wills and we were successful in re-establishing a presence in Geneva open to international Marist interns

One of the highlights of their internship was to connect with Dujuan Hoosen a young first nations boy from Alice Springs who has family connections with Santa Teresa.

Dujuan is the youngest person to address the UN Human Rights Council https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWOppPEoqDM where he referenced the documentary in which he is the main character. (See Official Documentary Trailer)

The documentary was released by ABC TV Premiere and iView - Sunday, 5 July 2020 from 21:30-23:00 UTC+10

I know the documentary has been viewed in many of our schools during Reconciliation Week. Perhaps the ABC release gives many more of us the opportunity to view and listen to Dujuan's story and connect with the experience of our young Marist professionals, Pat and Brad.

Br Chris Wills

## MID-YEAR REPORT, JUNE 2020

#### **LAVALLA SCHOOL**

LaValla Primary School is a Government Registered school that follows the National School curriculum. The school was founded in 1998 in Phnom Penh and moved to the current site in Takhmao in 2000. The school caters for students with physical disabilities. They come mainly from poor, rural areas, and because of their disabilities were unable to attend their local school. Students are mostly referred to LaValla by other agencies working in the Provinces.

Because students come from many parts of the country, LaValla operates as a boarding school. Students are able to have regular contact with their families and family members are welcome to visit at any time.

The School year began with 87 students (51 boys and 36 girls) from 13 Provinces. There were 27 new enrolments. Their disabilities are varied, but include cerebral palsy, polio, amputations - most of those the result of accidents, congenital abnormalities, muscular dystrophy and for some consequences of meningitis and other diseases.

Grade	М	F	Total
ıA	10	4	14
1B	9	1	10
2	7	5	12
3	8	6	14
4	5	9	14
5/6 6	7	5	12
6	5	6	11
Total	51	36	87

As well as following the National Curriculum subjects (Khmer Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) LaValla students also have English, Computer, Art, Music and Physical Education classes.

There are 10 teachers on staff, all of them being people with disabilities. As well as being very good teachers, there are excellent role models for the students and understand the life problems they have to contend with.

#### Hostel

Because students come from the rural areas of Cambodia, LaValla provides hostel accommodation for most of the students. And because they come from very poor families, we provide for all their needs.

As well as three meals each day LaValla provides school uniforms, clothing, and all other needs.

A variety of activities are available for recreation and socializing. Swimming pool, basketball, volleyball, football, television, reading, and other activities are available. These activities also assist students to improve their mobility.

### Health and Rehabilitation

LaValla has three full time physiotherapists and support staff who manage the health needs of the students. Each week a doctor is on site for a full day. Each week there is provisions for students to have new prosthetics fitted or adjusted. Students also have regular access to dentist, optometrist, hearing specialists. We have an arrangement with Takeo Hospital, which will provide services to our student without charge.

In December 2019, 9 students had corrective surgery to improve their mobility. These students are currently undergoing intensive physiotherapy each day.



Typically, in any month, an average of 20 students would be fitted for new, or have adjustments to, prosthetics or orthotics.

All new students were tested for hepatitis and tuberculosis.

In March, a group of doctors (ear, nose and throat specialists) from HOPE Cambodia Organisation visited LaValla and examined all students. Some students were given medication and ongoing treatment plans for problems that were found.

#### COVID-19

In mid-March all schools in Cambodia were ordered to close in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Initially it was thought that schools could reopen on





20th April, but the date for reopening now is 1st November.

All students returned home by 17th March.

The Government has promoted online learning. But it is estimated that up to two million rural children cannot access this service. This would include the majority of LaValla students.

Staff were concerned that the students who had had surgery in December would not be getting proper attention. In May staff visited families in the surrounding Provinces and contacted families who live further away. Consequently, we have allowed a small group of students to return to LaValla so they can have ongoing treatment. There were also a few who, because of the family situation, were not being adequately cared for. These have come back to LaValla as well. Also, we assisted some families who needed funds for urgent medical needs.

Teachers have been coming to school each day. The students here are having lessons. Teachers are in regular contact with as



many of their students as possible, providing work and encouragement for students to keep learning.

A number of donors have provided us with equipment, masks, sanitiser, soap etc. to allow us to manage the present situation.

#### Maintenance

While students have been away, we have been able to complete some major maintenance projects.

Thanks to a special grant we have been able to do the following:

The roofing on the Dining Hall was removed and replaced with well insulated material. On hot days the temperature inside the dining Hall is reduced significantly.

Electrical wiring for the solar panels was replaced and new circuit boards installed.

Roofing on the walkways between buildings has also been replaced with insulated roofing materials.

The fence around the swimming pool has been completely renewed.

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

After Grade 6 students finish at Lavalla School it is the preference of MSC that they should return home and attend their local Government Secondary School and integrate back into their local community.

For those students who do this, we support them to access school by providing school uniforms, school materials, means of transport. Also, if required we construct infrastructure in these school (e.g. wheelchair ramps, wheelchair accessible toilets).

For those who, if they return home, would have no possibility of accessing Secondary school we offer hostel accommodation at Takhmao. These students attend the local Government High School. This for them in a step towards integrating back into the wider community.

The Inclusive Education Program caters, during 2020, for 126 students. Of these 68 are in our residential hostel and attend the local Secondary School in Takhmao, or







University in Phnom Penh. The remaining 58 live at home and attend their local Primary School, Secondary School or University. Residential students live at LaValla Village or Villa Maria Hostel and attend local High school or University. Community students live at home and attend local schools, University or Vocational Skills Training Centres.

#### **Inclusive Education Students**

Residential	Community	Tota

Primary		13	13
Secondary (Gr 7 – 9)	34	12	46
High School (Gr 10 – 12)	20	13	33
University	14	8	22
Vocational Skills Training		12	12
	68	58	126

There are currently tutors employed to assist residential students with Mathematics, and Computer Studies.

Students are being encouraged to consider doing Vocational Skills training as preparation for future employment. There are many excellent training centres in Cambodia, and we are happy to support students who wish to follow these courses.

As well as providing access to good education, students have access to a comprehensive health and rehabilitation program.

#### LaValla Village

LaValla Village was opened in November 2019 and provides accommodation to the High school students who attend the local Government High School in Takhmao. These students were previously accommodated at the Villa Maria hostel, which was very crowded.

Since moving into the new accommodation, we have been able to establish a more structured study routine, better access to the LaValla Health and Rehabilitation programme.

Work is in progress to work with individual students and their families to map out appropriate pathways to meaningful employment. For some this will mean continuing on to Grade 12, while for others, depending on age and academic ability and interest could be supported to attend Vocational Skills training courses, or moving directly into employment.

In February 8 students transferred from High School to attend Kandal Province Skills Training Centre Courses.

#### Villa Maria

The Villa Maria site provides accommodation for our University students. As these are older, they live fairly independently and normally go of to university by themselves. Some have part-time jobs to supplement what is provided by MSC. There are 14 students living at Villa Maria and another 6 who live at home who we support to some extent.



The courses they do include English Literature, Public Administration, Business Management, Computer Technology, Law.

## Health and Rehabilitation

2 Students have received new prosthetics and 10 have had adjustments to existing prosthetics. This work is done by Veterans International and Cambodia Trust organisations in Phnom Penh.

1 student had been treated for Tuberculosis.

2 students had minor surgery at Takeo hospital and two have been treated at Kandal hospital for existing health conditions.

#### COVID-19

Nine University students continue to reside at the Villa Maria site so they can continue their courses online. They use the IT facilities at LaValla Village during each day.

Our residential Grade 12 students are living at LaValla Village so they can access online learning lessons and can also receive lessons from their teachers at their local Government High School. Tutors in Mathematics and Computers are also working at the Village.



# SERVING IN SOLIDARITY AND BUILDING HOPE DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

At Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS), we have not let the COVID-19 virus stop us from carrying out our mission. We have been working from home, during these difficult times, to ensure our project partners have been getting all the help they need.

Armed with the battle cry of #covidcantstopgood, we have been humbled by the generous support of our donors during the current challenges of the unfolding COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your much-needed support.

### Continuing to support the most vulnerable

We have been closely connected to our partners on the ground in vulnerable communities and have been working with them to urgently assess what support is most needed. Here we share with you some of the ways that our partners are responding to the needs of the most vulnerable in their communities during these challenging times.

### Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel, India - serving the most vulnerable

The lockdown is affecting the most vulnerable people in India, like the Santali and other minority tribal groups. Three local Marist Brothers decided to do something



The team at Australian Marist Solidarity working from home

for these vulnerable families. With money provided through AMS, they prepared 200 bags of essential food (rice, flour, lentils, soybean, sugar, salt and oil) and, with the

help of some young people, distributed them among the families. We would especially like to thank Marist College Canberra for supporting this important initiative.



Distributing essential food supplies



ICFP students

#### ICFP - Teacher Training College empowering teachers and raising education standards in Timor-Leste

Classes and tutor support have continued during lockdown via WhatsApp, with the college distributing phones to those who did not have any. This has enabled teachers to remain in close contact with their students and for learning to continue. Classes at the campus have now resumed and teachers are pleased that studies did not have to completely cease during the initial lockdowns.

#### Anondo Neer Project – supporting children living with an intellectual disability in Dhaka, Bangladesh

During lockdown, staff at the Anondo Neer Project were informed that some of their families did not have enough money to buy food, as they were unable to work during lockdown. Luckily, the centre was able to ensure that families had enough food to eat during these difficult times. Some of the children were getting distressed at home as they were not allowed outside. Upon hearing this, Anondo Neer decided to allow two children to get together a few mornings a week at the centre to allow that much needed interaction. They were able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people in their program while keeping within COVID regulations.

#### 2020 SCHOOL CAMPAIGN St Louis High School, Kiribati, Update

Our 2020 School Campaign is focused on providing critical renovations for the Marist St Louis High School in Kiribati.



Project coordinator, Mukul Rozario with a student

Both the junior campus and the senior campus of St. Louis High School are in need of new toilet facilities. A clean and safe toilet ensures health, dignity, and well-being — yet 40% of the world's population does not have access to toilets.

#### **CHILDREN**

Some 297,000 children under five – more than 800 every day –die annually from diarrhoeal diseases due to poor sanitation, poor hygiene, or unsafe drinking water. These deaths are preventable.(WHO 2019).

#### **EDUCATION/GIRLS**

Almost half of the schools in the world do not have handwashing facilities with soap and water available to students. Clean and safe toilets help keep more girls in school and increase attendance rates. Far too many girls miss out on education just because of the lack of a clean and safe toilet. (WHO/UNICEF 2020)

On August 6, 2020, the new junior campus toilets were opened with 12 new toilets for the 322 students. The original facilities were in a dilapidated state with most of the toilets barely flushing.

The next urgent build will be the senior toilets where there are only 3 functioning toilets for 564 students. Because of the limited number of toilets available and their poor conditions, the students do not look forward to utilising the toilets while at school.

We will continue to focus our efforts on engaging and partnering with our Marist schools in Australia to ensure students at St Louis High School have access to toilets. As UN Water notes, "a toilet is not just a toilet, it's an opportunity-maker, a dignity-provider, a lifesaver." Together, let us turn this from a goal into a reality!



The opening of the junior school toilet block



The senior girls' toilet block in need of urgent repair

#### **Building work begins at St Michel Technical** College, Vanuatu

On April 6, 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold made landfall on the island of Espiritu Santo as an intense Category 5 system, destroying 90 percent of buildings in the worst-hit areas and impacting over 160,000 people.

At Australian Marist Solidarity, we were quick to launch a recovery appeal to raise funds for repairs and recovery for St Michel Technical College, which was devastated by TC Harold. St Michel's provides critical skills development for Vanuatu with both academic and vocational education pathways and has been supported by the Marist Brothers for 26 years.

hard work of our AMS team and our Marist family in Vanuatu, we moved quickly to organise the renovations needed at the school. On 10 August, 2020, building work commenced for the technical classroom, workshop, and boys' toilets. While we still have a way to go in funding the restoration of all of the damaged areas, we are pleased to be able to move forward quickly to the next phase for a number of buildings and help the students of St Michel return to a safe learning environment as soon as possible.

Massive disasters require massive response efforts and support of our Vanuatu Tropical Cyclone Harold Appeal has been overwhelming and we would especially like to thank:

- Marist College Ashgrove
- Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
- John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadows
- The many Marist Brothers communities who have contributed

Serving in solidarity. AMS fosters connections between students, alumni, staff and broader Marist school communities and the vulnerable communities that Marists serve across our region. We are focussed on giving young children in some of the poorest nations in the Asia and the Pacific regions a second chance at life: an education.

We know that the current COVID-19 pandemic has increased the level of vulnerability for all our partner communities across the Asia and Pacific region.

We are asking those who have the capacity to help support vulnerable children and young people in our communities during this COVID-19 crisis. To support our work, visit www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au.

#### Media Enquiries:

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The re-build commences at St Michel Technical College

## SCHOOLS WELCOMED TO MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Recently, many schools were formally accepted as new members of Marist Schools Australia. On behalf of all Marist educators, the Marist schools in Melanesia, Saint Patrick's Primary School in Kilmore and Carmel College Thornlands are welcomed to the family of schools united in our desire to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

#### Saint Patrick's Primary School in

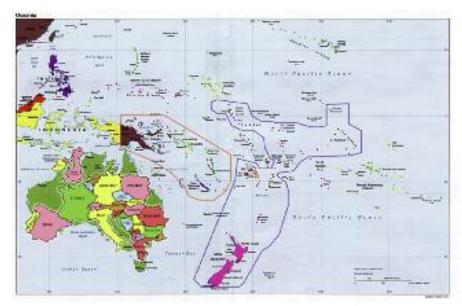
Kilmore has long held a close relationship with the Marists, since the arrival of the Brothers there and the foundation of Assumption College in 1893. The current Principal, Mr Michael Bourne, has strengthened the relationship with the Marists in recent times through close collaboration with Assumption College Principal Ms Kate Fogarty, the Regional Director Ms Julie Ryan and the MLF team in a variety of ways including staff formation.

Carmel College Thornlands was established by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office in 1993. Carmel College is a secondary co-educational school with a student enrolment of over 1250. Over the past 6 years, Carmel College under the leadership of Principal, Mr Stephen Adair, has engaged in numerous Marist staff formation opportunities with the strong support of Ms Pam Betts, the Executive Director for Brisbane Catholic Education.





## **MARISTS IN OCEANIA**



The area delineated by the red line is the area we know as Melanesia. The map of Australia is overlaid by maps of European countries to illustrate the immense geographical size of our Marist region of Oceania.

#### Schools and ministries

- New Caledonia: Lycée Professionnelle St Marcellin Champagnat, Collège Sainte Marie, Collège Champagnat, Ecole Sacré Cœur.
- Papua New Guinea: St Joseph's College and Vocational School Mabiri, Early Childhood Education Centre (Bougainville).
- Solomon Islands: St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School Tenaru, St Dominic's Rural Training Centre, St Marcellin Primary School and Kindergarten, Vanga Point.
- Vanuatu: Lycée et Collège Technique St Michel, Santo.

## STAUGUSTINE'S FORMAL 2020

A rare event in the pandemic-challenged social scene took place on Wednesday, August 5 when the senior class of St Augustine's College, with great lashings of style and panache, returned momentarily to days of yore. Although the College formal was notably different to previous incarnations, it was all the more memorable because of these differences.

No change, however, occurred to the obligatory pre-formal photos where students and their partners were captured at various locations around Cairns — the Esplanade, the Botanic Gardens and, of course, Cairns Wharf, where vintage cars jostled cheek by jowl with sleek modern wheels to stand out from the crowd. The majestic mountains overlooking Trinity Inlet provided a perfect background for paparazzi parents admiring their sons and partners as they mingled in the sensational Cairns sunshine.

Chauffeured to the college, they were greeted with wild applause by the school's boarders who formed a vocal cheer squad

for the couples as they strolled across the red carpet. Following sage advice from Harry Winston who said, "People will stare. Make it worth their while" – each couple would easily have graced the who's who pages.

The guests were then transported by bus to a spectacular COVID-safe location at Yorkey's Knob — a decorated barn, the Sugar Shed, which many students remarked, "Could not have been more unforgettably Queensland". Crisp tablecloths were in stark contrast to corrugated iron walls, an earthen floor and the enveloping green of the surrounding cane fields. This contrast did not detract from but rather augmented the formal experience. After all, the host of the venue, Czek Kersevani, a notable old-boy teacher, had made every possible adjustment to produce a modern venue.

Ochre Restaurant not only transformed the shed, which one might have easily mistaken for a hip New York restaurant, but catered

an outstanding three-course menu in which the classical Australian cuisine complemented the uniquely Cairns venue and was praised by guests. Regular formalities were also enjoyed, with the notable exception of dancing which was, unfortunately, disallowed due to restrictions.

"When you're given lemons, make lemon souffle." This was obviously the guiding principle for principal Mr Matthew Brennan, head of Year 12 Mr Andrew Dorahy and their team when planning the formal. As a result, it was the most memorable and, perhaps, one of the best the school has ever seen. Let's just hope that next year dancing and the other iconic elements may return with the eradication of the pandemic.

#### Jack Miller, Year 12

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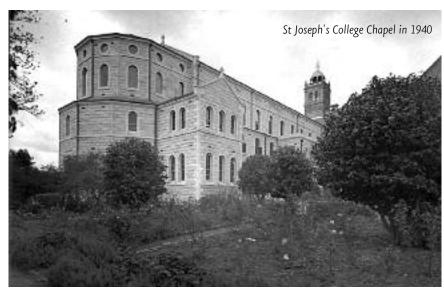


## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE CHAPEL – 80TH ANNIVERSARY

(This beautiful chapel is one of the most significant sacred places for Marists in Australia; as well, it is central to the life and mission of St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill.)

When it was blessed and opened in 1940, the St Joseph's College chapel fulfilled the wishes of all the Marist Brothers who had been associated with the College since its foundation in 1881. Lack of funds had delayed the building of a permanent chapel when the southern, central, and northern wings of the main stone building were completed by 1894. In 1912, Br Stanislaus (Headmaster 1890-1894) made his will leaving a large sum of money he had inherited to be invested and used for the beautifying of the sanctuary of the College chapel when it was to be built. In 1918, his executor tried to arouse interest in having a chapel completed for the Golden Jubilee of the College in 1931. In 1928, and again in 1930, architects were approached to draw up plans. In 1937, with enrolments of more than 400, the temporary chapel had been outgrown and the Headmaster, Br Louis (1935-1940), approached renowned ecclesiastical architect Clement Glancey, after rejecting earlier designs. Br Louis had been urged by Br Clement, then Assistant General, to lose no time over the chapel.

The chapel was blessed and opened by the Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Gilroy, on 11 August 1940 and he returned the following Thursday, 15 August, the Solemnity



of the Assumption, to say the first Mass. The dedication of St Joseph's College chapel coincided with the centenary of the death of St Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers.

The history of the chapel's renewal and renovation has been ongoing since its dedication in 1940. After more than 75 years, the dated electrical infrastructure and floor coverings were replaced in 2017, and the chapel has been reordered so as to better reflect post-Vatican II theological and liturgical principles. From 2005 until the rededication of the chapel in 2017, a determined program saw the ongoing restoration of the 25 Mayer stained glass

windows and the installation of the 1911 Norman and Beard pipe organ, originally a gift from Mr Ian Summerville and restored and augmented with the generous support of the Friel family. The final stage of the chapel's renewal construction commenced in January 2017, with handover to the College in early September in readiness for the Class of 2017 Graduation Mass. The renewal project was celebrated with a Mass of Rededication on 27 November 2017. All this was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of donors, including some who left bequests. On Tuesday, 11 August 2020, the 80th anniversary of the blessing and opening of St Joseph's College Chapel was celebrated with Mass attended by students and staff, with College Chaplain, Fr Gavin Foster SM, presiding.

Our magnificent chapel is the spiritual and physical heart of the College, deliberately constructed at the symmetric centre of our main sandstone building to remind all of the centrality of Christ in our lives. We gratefully acknowledge those generous supporters and benefactors who, over the past 80 years, have given our Marist community such a fitting and contemporary space of noble simplicity which continues to speak to our people today.

(Richard Quinn, Director of Advancement, St Joseph's College)



Fr Gavin sm celebrates Mass marking the Chapel's 80th anniversary.

## REX CAMBREY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

One of the great privileges and joys of being in education is to watch the growth of young people as they journey through life's experiences and literally grow up before our very eyes. Each year as the end of Year 12 approaches this is brought in to particular focus for those preparing to leave our specific school community. At Marist College Bendigo this is a relatively new phenomenon as 2020 is only the second time we will have Year 12 students graduating.

Our Year 12 students will be the first to spend six full years on Marist soil. It will be a special time to see them graduate and each will have their own special stories. Amid our class of 2020 sits Joshua Robertson. Joshua has been the inaugural recipient of the Rex Cambrey Education Scholarship over the last six years. This Scholarship is fully funded by the Tony and Gwenyth Lennon Family Foundation of Perth WA.

During that time Josh has developed into a confident, compassionate and committed Marist. Joshua came to Marist with a history of struggling with the academic demands of learning despite his strong commitment to study. By the end of his first year this had significantly turned around and he continued to grow academically every year. At the end of Year 11 Joshua decided to change paths and follow the passion he had developed in his VET Building & Construction course. He transferred from VCE into our VCAL stream and has really excelled in his final year. As well as doing well personally he has also become a great role model for younger students looking at a VCAL pathway. These younger students look up to Joshua and his humility sees him gently accept this role. The Rex Cambrey Education Scholarship has enabled Joshua to thrive in his six years of learning at Marist and he has looked forward each year to catching up with Mr. Cambrey and members of the Lennon family. Perhaps the only person prouder of Joshua than these good people is his mum, Deborah who has been so grateful for all the scholarship has given Joshua.

A few years behind Joshua in the journey at Marist is Tarrin West. In 2017 Tarrin



Back Row. Anthony Lennon, Darren McGregor.
Front Row. St Marcellin Champagnat, Joshua Robertson, Rex Cambrey, Tarrin West

joined us in the first class of Year 6. In 2018 Tarrin became a very worthy recipient of the Rex Cambrey Education Scholarship after clearly showing in Year 6 that she had much to offer our college and was someone who would not ever let adversity stop her from achieving her best. In three short years Tarrin has also shown very strong improvement academically and has achieved excellent results in the first half of Year 9 despite having a significant amount of this learning at home due to covid19 restrictions. In July Tarrin chose to take our Year 9 Pledge which is an option for our students to publicly acknowledge their commitment to being a senior Marist deeply committed to developing her own faith and the faith of our community. Tarrin is a highly respected and capable student here at Marist. It is shame that Tarrin and Joshua have missed out on catching up with Rex and The Lennon family this year due to covid19 restrictions. Both students were very keen to again thank their supporters. It would also have been a great chance for Rex and Anthony Lennon, son of Tony and Gwenyth to catch up on two outstanding humble recipients of the Rex Cambrey Education Scholarship here at Marist College Bendigo.

#### TRINITY CATHOLIC COLLEGE, AUBURN/REGENTS PARK

## **CELEBRATING 25 YEARS**

## The formation of Trinity Catholic College

Trinity Catholic College grew from the amalgamation of three fine and longstanding schools in the local community, St John's Girls High School, St Peter Chanel Regional Girl's High School and Benedict Senior College, bringing together the heritage of the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of St Joseph and the Marist Brothers. These three orders had all faithfully served this solidly Catholic and working class area of Western Sydney with distinction over many years, providing hard-working Catholic families of limited means with a first class education for their children.

Trinity Catholic College was founded on these wonderful traditions in 1995 with the aim of providing local families with a continuous Year 7- 12 Catholic education for their boys and girls, focused firmly on nurturing the love of their faith and a commitment to excellence in achievement for every student.

The coming together of the three schools was a time of great change, challenge, excitement and opportunity. The Catholic Education Office Sydney appointed Brother John Thompson as the inaugural Principal of the new College in 1994 and he worked

tirelessly with his Deputy, Mrs Maree Hamilton, appointing staff and organising every detail to ensure the successful emergence of Trinity Catholic College in 1995.

The first day of Term 1 in 1995 saw over 1500 students and staff come together over the College's two campuses with great anticipation and excitement, wearing their brand new uniforms and with much hope in their hearts. It was a steep learning curve for all, with secondary co-education new to most and with a host of policies, structures and guidelines to be developed and put into place.

From Day 1 Trinity was marked by Br. John Thompson's calm and wise leadership and great concern for the dignity of every student in his care. This became a foundation principle of the College, that every child has the right to be safe, happy and well taught and to know that they are loved and valued, equally. Prayer has always played a foundational role the life of the school, from the first we prayed every day for the help and guidance of our Patrons, Saint Marcellin Champagnat and Saint Mary MacKillop to help us on our journey and keep us united and true to our mission of building a new family, one dedicated to the love of Jesus and service to His people.





#### The Evolution of the Marist Charism At Trinity Catholic College

When Trinity was formed in 1995, Blessed Marcellin and Blessed Mary MacKillop (both were to become Saints) were chosen as patrons of the College and the teachings, values and charisms of these great saints have provided the traditions upon which our College has flourished.

With the wonderful, gentle and constant support of the Marist Brothers, the charism and inspiration of Marcellin grew stronger in the life of our community and it was with great thanks for this beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit that after a few years we became formally aligned with AMSA and later a proud member of Marist Schools Australia. We had found our home.

The Marist characteristics of simplicity, love of work, family spirit , presence and the way of Mary are studied and lived every day at Trinity. From the first day of Year 7 through to Year 12 Graduation, St Marcellin and his charism are at the forefront of College life and our young people leave us with these values as firm principles by which to act and live.

The Marist charism is strong and vibrant throughout our community, June 6th is a special day for us as we mark the Feast Day of Sr Marcellin and the foundation of the Marists with great joy. Our REMAR groups have been central to the life of the



Left to right: Mr Paul Fenson, Brother John Thompson and Mr John Robinson



Daniel Delmage, 2017 - Present

school and we now have proudly joined Game Changers. We are also firmly committed to the Marist project, supporting Marist Solidarity, Marist 180 and specialist Marist schools as well as being enthusiastically involved in Youth Festivals, Marist Connect and Marist staff and student retreats, to name but a few!

Trinity also hosts an active and vibrant branch of the Marist Association, praying, celebrating and working together with the Brothers and each other to take forward the great vision of Marcellin into the future.

#### **Highlights of the past** 25 years include:

- Making Jesus known and loved in the way of Mary, everyday.
- Joining AMSA/Marist Schools Australia
- Formation of a successful dual campus high school with at least 64 different ethnic and cultural groups, all learning, studying and playing together with great spirit and harmony.
- The daily success of 1300+ students attending a safe, happy dual campus Catholic Marist college in the Inner West Region of Sydney.
- The first successful dual campus school in the Archdiocese of Sydney
- The Australian School of the Year 2004
- · Continuing academic success. Our HSC results are always well above state average with ncredible Naplan growth in literacy and numeracy from Years 7 - 9.
- · Hugely enthusiastic participation in all evangelisation activities, including World Youth Days in Sydney and overseas, Catholic Youth Festivals, Marist Youth Festivals and Leadership Retreats, Marist Connect nights, Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) events, REMAR, Game Changers and other activities. We operate a

Young Marists group for our Year 7 and 8 students and also host an active and diverse social justice program.

- A strong history of sporting success in both girls and boys competitions
- An active co curricular program that includes youth ministry, debating, public speaking, coding club, leadership and mentoring programs, Duke of Edinburgh program, drama, art competitions, music performances

#### **Our Principals:**

As a community we give great thanks for the inspired leadership of the Principals who shaped this great college to be a leader in formation of Marist values and current educational pedagogy.

#### **Our Dominican Sisters**

Since 2008 we have been graced by the presence of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia on the teaching staff of the College. Our 'Nashville' Sisters joined us following their wonderful work on World Youth Day 2008, and we have been enriched by their dedication, example and commitment to helping our students, staff, families all who they encounter come to better know and love God.

#### **Vocations**

Our College is very proud of our students who have chosen to enter religious life and we keep them firmly in our prayers: Fr Lewi Barakat, Fr Daniel Russo, Sr Moana Grace (Sisters of St. Cecilia), and Adrian Simmons, who is completing his studies for the priesthood

at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd.

#### A Young School, **Growing Up**

Trinity Catholic College has been a hugely successful dual campus school in the Archdiocese of Sydney. From humble beginnings, the staff have worked to develop a shared vision of giving "ordinary kids extraordinary opportunities".

The first twenty five years of the College have laid the foundation for a vibrant contemporary school, firmly focused on making Jesus known and loved. The high standards and expectations of staff and students have contributed to establishing the school as one of the most successful Catholic Schools in the local area.

After twenty five years it was timely to review aspects of the college and decide on what to keep, what to upgrade and what to





leave behind. The original crest developed for the college consisted of the Southern Cross and the Christian Cross standing together to express our pride in our Catholic faith and culture and our united Australian heritage. This crest committed us to word and action consistent with the values of lesus Christ and the best interests of all Australians. The original crest was developed to bring three communities together to form Trinity Catholic College. This design was simple and unaligned to any of the three schools that had united to form the new college. During the first twenty five years the words Truth, Courage and Community were used extensively to focus the community on its

foundational values.

After twenty five years the college has evolved and forged its own identity, so in 2019, we undertook a full review of our core values, crest, branding and uniform. Critical to this new public image was the strong Marist connection that had been developed over the past 25 years. After extensive consultation with parents, staff and students the college community identified three key values (Faith, Community, Nourishment) that underpins where the college is now and how we see ourselves in the future. We also clarified the school colours as red, white and dark blue, with the previously used light blue to be phased out in the coming years.

These three elements combine Faith, Community and Nourishment, creating our new college crest, which will take us forward into the next phase of our journey of excellence in education and faith formation for all members of our Trinity Catholic College community.

The next phase of the future is the completion of a bold and creative building and refurbishment program across both campuses. This program commenced in 2019 and will see the the following improvements;

- Refurbishment of all classrooms into agile and contemporary learning spaces
- The integration of contemporary interactive technologies to all teaching spaces
- The development of new administration and staff facilities at both campuses
- The inclusion of two new multipurpose spaces (one at each campus) large enough to accommodate the whole school community
- New landscaped gardens with reflective prayerful spaces
- The development of a new creative and performing arts centre at the Auburn campus catering for Art, Music, Drama and Dance
- The integration of a new gathering space at Auburn to act as the "heart" of the college and to integrate learning and passive recreation
- The introduction of contemporary learning hubs focussed on the development of 21st century skills, literacy and learning
- New facilities for PDHPE and sport

Commencing in 2020 the college uniform has been revitalised to incorporate the new crest and colours. Building on the

current uniform, the new uniform will integrate white shirts, a new skirt for the girls, a new jumper and new ties for boys and girls. This new look will be part of our new future image and branding.

Our dual moral purpose of excellence in **Learning** and **Making Jesus Known and Loved** will continue to drive our daily practice over the next few years.

Our **Learning Agenda** has been developed to focus on what research tells us are the most effective teaching and learning practices. These high impact teaching and learning strategies also integrate peer observations and feedback aligned to the Australian Professional Standards of Teachers, to ensure that high quality teaching and learning continues to grow and evolve.

As a Catholic school in the Marist tradition, "Making Jesus known and loved" will continue to be a major driving force in all that we do. Our Religious Education classes and evangelization activities will continue to touch the hearts of all members of our community and continue the wonderful work that was started over 200 years ago by our founder, Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

It is an exciting time at Trinity Catholic College as we work together as students, parents and teachers to create a new and exciting future. I would like to thank two long standing members of our staff who have assisted me in the co-construction of this article Ms Donna McLaughlin (Assistant Principal) and Mr Michael Perry (Yr 7 PC/Assis. HSIE Coordinator).

Daniel Delmage Principal 2017– Present



## CO-EDUCATION COMES TO MARIST NORTH SHORE



January 29, 2021, will mark the start of Marist Catholic College North Shore's official journey as a Kindergarten to Year 12 coeducational school. This will be a significant moment for the Lavalla (high school) campus, as it will be the first coeducational cohort taught on the site in the College's 132 year history.

With the inauguration of the new College comes new uniforms, building works, six new Houses, coeducational professional learning, the inclusion of a positive psychology framework and entry into new sporting competitions.

#### Uniform

Marist Catholic College North Shore will introduce a new uniform from Kindergarten to Year 12 in 2021. This will include a boy's and girl's summer and winter uniform with various combinations available across the entire range.

#### **Building Works**

To facilitate larger year groups moving forward and to create innovative, flexible learning spaces, the College has completed Stage 1 of the building masterplan. The new facilities include: a revitalised Academic Resource Centre, refurbished classrooms, updated Art and TAS facilities including a new state of the art junior kitchen and textiles room, a remodelled gym, new girl's and boy's bathrooms and a reimagined recreational area adjoining this space. The area has an inviting ambience, providing shade and green space for students.

#### **College Houses**

From 2021 the College will have six new Houses from Kindergarten to Year 12.

A House committee, which included members from both the St Mary's Primary School and Marist College North Shore, led a thorough community consultation process and the College can confirm our six new houses.

## Preparation of Staff for Coeducation

Staff at Marist College North Shore are currently engaged in professional learning to support the College's transition to a coeducational school. The professional learning plan is well researched and resourced, and explores themes including:

- Unconscious bias
- Adolescent development
- Wellbeing and behaviour management in a coeducational school setting
- Student leadership
- Innovative pedagogical practices in a coeducational setting

The majority of our staff have taught in a coeducational setting, so this professional learning acts as an opportunity to create and share ideas and practices that will enhance an innovative, forward thinking, agile learning environment for all students.

#### **Positive Psychology**

Grounded in the philosophy that students need to understand how to best prepare themselves for learning, the College has adopted the Berry Street Educational Model to help us systematically and collectively bridge the divide between wellbeing and academic outcomes in all students.

The model explicitly teaches staff and students how to realise their strengths through five (5) key domains:

**Body:** School-wide focus on building students' capacity by increasing physical and emotional regulation of the stress response, de-escalation and focus.

**Relationships:** Developing relational capacities in staff and students by nurturing on-task learning through relational classroom management strategies.

**Stamina:** Creating a culture of independence in academic persistence by nurturing resilience, emotional intelligence and a growth mindset.

**Engagement:** Motivating students with strategies that increase their willingness to learn.

**Character:** Harnessing a values and character strengths approach to instill students' self-knowledge for future pathways.

#### **Sport**

With the arrival of girls, the College will be joining the MCCS Representative Sporting competition, to participate in weekly representative sport. For our talented athletes, the girls will also represent the College in the Catholic Girls Schools Secondary Sporting Association (CGSSSA) competition.

## MARIST YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Introduction:

I am pleased to provide some insights into the journey we have been on as Marist Youth Ministry. It has been a year of opportunities to be flexible and resilient, to say the least, but I am sure Marcellin himself would have had his fair share back in France in his time. A picture says a thousand words, so I hope you enjoy the images that incapsulate moments of connection, formation and joy that was present during the various events the MYM teams ran across Australia.

On behalf of all MYM staff, I would like to say thank you for your support and encouragement during these last few months.

If you have any questions regarding our ministry, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Edwin Bakker (Marist Youth Ministry, National Coordinator)

#### **Game Changers**

At the beginning of 2020, Game Changers commenced in 17 schools across Australia. Even though COVID-19 restrictions caused some havoc during the year, the majority of students have been able to continue to meet in their Youth Groups, either 'face to face' or on-line. This means that currently 368 students are involved in 26 Game Changers Youth Groups across Australia. A further three schools are planning to commence Game Changers in 2021.

Game Changers creates opportunities for students to learn more about themselves, their peers and the Marist story. As one Year 10 student shared:



Marist College Canberra Game Changers

"Game Changers helps create bonds with other students and teachers on a higher level. I now know more about my fellow peers and more about the teachers who attend these weekly events."

Another student from the Year 7 group added,

"I have enjoyed the communal feeling I get every meeting at Game Changers. I have gotten new friends and fun experiences."

Game Changers students are given opportunities to be more proactive with their service and encouraged to think of some imaginative ways to serve those in need with limitations currently imposed; for example writing letters to nursing homes, raising money, and sharing gratitude cards for students at school.

#### **NSW Super Connect**

One hundred and ten students from 12 Marist schools across NSW and the ACT joined the MYM Sydney team for our Term 3 Super Connect on Friday, 21 August. Students joined us online either as individuals from home or as a group from their school. The theme was 'Fan or Follower' and students were invited to wear their favourite team's colours. Students were asked to reflect on what it means to be either a 'fan' or follower' of Jesus. Using St Marcellin Champagnat as a role model, students were invited to be a follower of Jesus, someone who actively engages with others, in the way of Mary, authentically seeking to create a sense of family spirit with others through presence and simplicity.

#### **VIC Super Connect**

Only days prior to the Victorian lock-down, MYM Melbourne was able to host our first Victorian Super Connect of the year. Through an engaging and interactive programme, MYM provides a safe place for our Marist students to interact with each other in an informal way. Even though we cannot meet face to face, these MYM Connect nights continue to draw our Year 11 and 2 students together.







Mt Carmel Varroville Super Connect

#### **National Gold Online Experience**

A Remar Gold Online Experience was organised instead of a face to face camp. Assumption College Kilmore, Trinity College, Beenleigh, Trinity Catholic College Auburn, Marcellin College Bulleen, Notre Dame College Shepparton, Newman College Churchlands and Lavalla Catholic College Traralgon were present as the national MYM team provided a series of events that helped the Rowers reflect on their journey so far and ponder about what lies ahead while they continue to uncover their vocation as Young Marists.

#### **QLD Year 11 Forum**

The Year 11 Forum in Brisbane was centred around the theme, "Meaning and Purpose". Students from Trinity College Beenleigh, Carmel College Thornlands, Mt Maria College Petrie, St Peter Claver College Riverview and Marist College Ashgrove, were provided a place to expand their sense of God in their life and in their key decisions entering into young adulthood.

#### **Young Adult Exchanges**

In pre-COVID days Marist young adults would meet regionally, on a monthly basis, to both connect with other likeminded people, to share a meal and explore their faith and the Marist charism. This year, with the 'new normal', young adults have moved their discussions online with other young Marists from not only across the country but across the globe! It has been a great 'exchange' of ideas from young adults here and in Columbia, South Africa, Kenya, USA, Philippines, Zimbabwe and Fiji!

The following themes have been explored by our Regional Assistants across the country:

April: Br James Hodge - Images of Mary, Our Good Mother

May: Ashley and Emma - Our response to Mary's response and our own good mothers June: Bec Bromhead – Australian Marist Solidarity and projects around the world July: Lachy and Ella - Young Marist volunteering opportunities abroad August: Dan and Sara -love for Others September: Adam and Hannah - Well-Being

#### VIC YMV Training

Earlier this year over 30 Young Marists from around Melbourne joined Lachlan and Ella for a time of formation, volunteer training and fun activities as they were planning to volunteer at various MYM events. Even though the opportunities to volunteer have been limited, most of the Young Marists continue to stay connected through our Exchange Nights and other online experiences that MYM organises throughout the year.

#### Leading in the **Marist Way**

This year saw the development and launch of a leadership program for Young Marists, post-school. The program was offered to 10 young Marists from across the country. Developed by the national MYM Team, the online program aims to grow participants in their understanding what it means to be a Marist, Christian leader!

Congratulations to the following participants: Sarah Ranieri (Newman College), Tia Hunt (St Joseph's Northam), Xavier Jalosjos and Ashley Pearce (Sacred Heart College), Maria Joseph and Marian Fernando (Marymede College), Monica Le (St Patrick's Dundas) and Hannah Overend (Chanel College, Gladstone).

#### Mentoring in the **Marist Way**

MYM has given Young Marists an opportunity to discover their personal call, by God, to live a wild and precious life by providing an opportunity to be mentored by an experienced Association member. After initial formation by Br. Darren Burge around the topic of Mentoring in the Marist way, a dozen members have started their journey of "Marist Mentors" with some of the Young Marists in their local area.



Gold Remar Rowers of Newman College Churchlands, WA



### RILEY TONNA – 2020 CAMPBELLTOWN YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



2020 Campbelltown Young Citizen of the Year, Riley Tonna, receives his award.

Riley Tonna is a passionate science student who is currently studying Biology, Investigating Science and Science Extension. Riley's dedication and hard work in his Science studies have seen him awarded the prestigious Victor Chang School Science Award. As part of his Science Extension studies he is exploring the local Campbelltown koala population in an effort to improve conservation efforts.

This is important research as the Campbelltown koala population is the only chlamydia-free population in mainland Australia, as well as being one of the largest in the country. Chlamydia is one of the biggest threats to the koala population and a better understanding of how the population in Campbelltown has managed to remain chlamydia-free could aid in the conservation of the entire species.

Riley has completed an extensive literature review of relevant scientific articles and local council documents to develop his foundational understanding and refine his research question and direction. Riley is currently working with data from Campbelltown Council to determine the most common cause of koala death in the local area. Riley will then use this data to assess the importance and effectiveness of current and planned local management strategies such as the recent installation of koala tunnels along Picton Road and provide statistical data to Council for future consideration in conservation planning to ensure the continuation of this iconic species in the local area.

Aidan Johnson (Science Co-ordinator)

#### CHAMPAGNAT DAY 2020

On Thursday 4th June we were very excited to all be back at school together to celebrate our 2020 Champagnat Day. Anna Nasr from the Mission and Life Formation team and Michael Evison the Coordinator of Membership from the Association of St Marcellin Champagnat were our special guests and we thank them for joining us in the afternoon. We held powerful school liturgies in the morning led by Steve Robinson (REC) who thoughtfully unpacked the 2020 theme Creating One New Humanity and calling on the children and staff to reflect on what shape their one wild and precious life will take.

We then conducted a Moment of Renewal and enjoyed lunch together with Association members, intending members and our special guests. All staff received a copy of a letter that Marcellin wrote where he stated back in 1830:

"How happy I would be if I could be a teacher, and devote myself even more directly to educating these impressionable children!"

We all know what Marcellin did with his "precious life"!

Gavan Martin, Coordinator of Teaching and School Operations

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On Wednesday the 29th of July the Bishop of Wollongong, Bishop Brian Mascord, Mr Peter Hill (Director of Catholic Education in Wollongong), Mr Ken Bryant (Head of Catholic Life, Education and Mission), Mr John LoCascio (Head of Secondary Schools) and Mrs Cathy Brown (Secondary Schools Support Officer) met with our staff to discuss and listen to the impact of teaching and learning during this time of Covid and how it has changed and is

continuing to change the way in which we engage with our students. The guests then had lunch with the staff and our Student Leadership Team, and this was followed by a meeting with nine of our Student Leaders and the Bishop. The students shared openly and with a real essence of vulnerability about their journey this year articulating their fears, struggles and most notably their personal triumphs. The Bishop also shared some of his own challenges and ways that he deals with disappointments and tough times. As a community we are incredibly grateful and proud that we have such fine young people that lead our student body and I will leave you with some thoughts of the encounter from a guest and from some of our leaders that were present:

"I just wanted to say THANK YOU for your welcome, hospitality, wonderful organisation, amazing and impressive student participation, phenomenal staff and Marist warmth. Both your students and staff are very impressive and authentic. The LTW values of hope, integrity, compassion and justice seem firmly embedded in all that you do. And I strongly believe you are very much a school that operates from a head, heart and hands pedagogy or perspective...thank you." (Cathy Brown)

"Bishop Brain's visit to JTCC was not only a delightful experience, but better yet an insightful one. When gathered with the leadership team, he was very honest, open, courteous and friendly; inspiring and encouraging us through his many life experiences. His reminder to "give thanks for all that we have" is a message that will stick with me, especially during such an uncertain time, and for that, and all else that he offered, I am extremely grateful." - Sophia Wolczak

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God...'. This reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, was the main theme during Bishop Brian Mascord's visit at our Catholic College. Accompanied by the Director of Catholic Education in Wollongong, Head of Catholic life, Head of Secondary Schools and the Secondary Schools Support Officer, Bishop Brian and the John Therry staff and we, the student leadership team, partook in a wonderful discussion. We were very privileged to engage in a personal dialogue with Bishop Brian, who shared his profound spiritual wisdom with us. We are eternally grateful for this special experience with Bishop Brian and will always keep him in our prayers."

~ Amith Jacob-Kovoor



Principal Wayne Marshall addresses the Champagnat assembly



Students and staff ponder this year's theme question



Part of the 2020 Champagnat Day Assembly Covid style



Visit of Bishop Brian Mascord to John Therry Catholic College Rosemeadow

#### NEWMAN COLLEGE, CHURCHLANDS

### **WA CHAMPAGNAT CUP**

The inaugural WA Champagnat Cup was held in Bunbury on Friday 7 August featuring our open Netball, boys Basketball and boys Football teams. The genesis of this day was our Sports Captains, Marcus Romano and Holly Johnson, who formulated the idea of competing against our Marist school in Bunbury. Traditionally, our Marist Carnivals

would have been held in the Eastern States but the advent of COVID-19 meant that this has not been possible in 2020. Students from Bunbury Catholic College and Newman College participated and competed with a great Marist spirit. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.



## WEST AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MIGRANT AND REFUGEE OFFICE (WACMRO)

Newman College is pleased to support the Draw Near Program, an initiative of the West Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office. The program makes clear links between its foundation in scripture, our Catholic Social Teaching and offers



practical advocacy for our whole school community. The collaborative links with feeder Primary Schools and our Parishes enables us to display our Marist family spirit and is an example of the way we seek to live and act in the world as a Marist Community.

To formalise this partnership, Newman College hosted a signing ceremony, bringing together the school, agency and parish to propose a 'triune' model of collaboration to the faith community. Such a model reminds us that relationship, community and commitment are the cornerstone of intentional discipleship to Jesus.

### **RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCH**

Newman College's first Reconciliation Plan (RAP) has been a collaboration of students, staff, alumni and families from across our three campuses, covering our Pre-Kindy to Year 12 community. A Working Group was formed at the commencement of 2019. This group worked alongside highly regarded RAP Consultant Christine Sindley to develop Newman College's first Reconciliation Action Plan. We were delighted then to launch our Reconciliation Plan in May during National Reconciliation Week.

Newman College is committed to strategically and practically building a culture which acknowledges, affirms and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and traditions. Our Reconciliation Action Plan represents this commitment. As a Marist School we strive to embed our Marist characteristics every day; Family Spirit, In the Way of Mary, Simplicity, Presence and a Love of Hard



Work. At the core of these characteristics is the developing of relationships that are imbued by our family spirit, united in Christ's love. To this end, we want our staff, students and families to increase their understanding, value and active recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through respectful cultural learning. We strive to create a culturally supportive environment so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and all Australian families collaboratively build a community of respectful and right relationships.

## CARING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE PERIPHERIES IN 2020

The year 2020 has been one that none of us imagined – even as we held subdued New Year celebrations with loved ones in the face of bushfires across many parts of Australia. The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges and adversities that have been confronting to all of us. At the same time, the Black Lives Matter movement in Australia has highlighted the continuing issue of intergenerational disadvantage and institutional racism that results in over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the child protection, out-of-home care, justice and multiple other service systems.

The immediate and lasting impacts of the events in 2020 will not be felt equally across our community. Largely hidden from our view is the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable children and young people in our community.

COVID-19 and its associated response is an unprecedented event in the lifetime of all Australians. It has wide-reaching implications across the community, particularly for those on the peripheries. The impacts on the children and young people Marist180 serves has been significant and include disruptions to daily routines, restrictions of movement, anxiety caused by the pandemic, reduced face-to-face support service accessibility, reduced family contact, and prolonged exposure to unsafe environments due to delays in court and child protection services.

As an agency charged with the care, safety and future of some of Australia's most vulnerable children and young people, 2020 has proven to be a challenge like no other. Without the luxury of simply shutting down or moving towards remote services, COVID-19 and our related response has truly tested our stamina, commitment and authenticity to those whom we are called to serve.

Together in spirit and mission, as a Marist180 family we have continued to endeavour that those whom need us most are not forgotten. Like many other frontline workers, it takes courage to go to work each day knowing the rest of Australia has been told to stay home. Moreover, it requires resolve to care for a child or young person suspected of having COVID-19 when you have a family of your own.

Amongst it all throughout the year there has been countless golden threads. Ali Abbas Haidari, a former client is one of these. An article in the Western Advocate published on 17 August 2020 showcases his success.

He, like many other clients faced significant challenges throughout his young life. Today, the 24-year-old has risen beyond the challenge to make an impressive start to his career as a registered nurse in Sydney.

Ali recently received a staff recognition award from the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District [SESLHD] for his outstanding work with mental health and

dementia patients at Sutherland Hospital. He is the first ever newly graduated nurse in the SESLHD to win the award, which honours health care workers across multiple disciplines, including senior nurses, managers, clinical nurses, doctors and physios.

During this interview he reflects on the support he had received throughout his life and says:

"It took a while to settle in, but I received a lot of support from Marist Youth Care to get through high school."

As a Marist family we are extremely proud of the challenges he has overcome and the person he has grown to be.

For Marist180 the road ahead will be challenging. COVID-19 and its associated response more broadly will likely continue to create increased pressures on organisations like ours in the months and years ahead. As we continue to identify the true impacts COVID-19 has had, we draw upon the spirit of Marcellin to guide us in being the seeds of hope, improving outcomes for children and young people in our care. Underpinning it all is our unwavering commitment to the mission of being the beacons of long-term positive change for those on the peripheries.

As we continue to pray for Ali and all our past, current and future clients we draw on the support from the wider Marist family to keep our staff and clients in your thoughts and prayers during these turbulent times.



## MISSION AND LIFE FORMAT

We Australians have a saying: "You're not Robinson Crusoe." This is another way of saying 'you are not the only one.' The title hero of Daniel Defoe's novel (1719) is a sailor who, shipwrecked on a tropical island, survives by various ingenious methods until he is rescued many years later.

Crusoe's laments over his loneliness and misfortune, not of his own making, mirror some of what we have all felt during the COVID19 Pandemic. Our world has changed but, like Crusoe, we have a chance to examine our lives. Over time he comes to accept the island as his home and he learns to live in harmony with it. Isolated as he is however, like us, Crusoe is never entirely alone — God is with him.

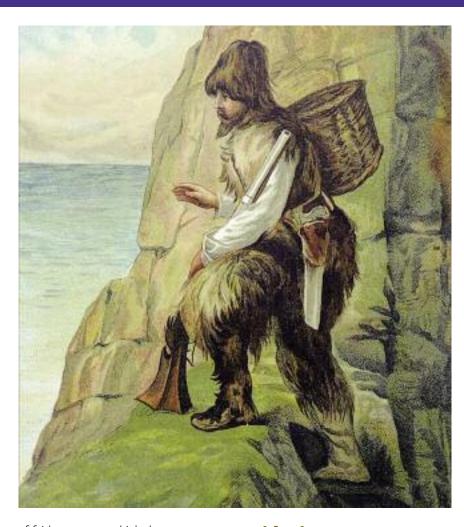
The Marist Mission and Life Formation Team (MLF), so used to being present to staff in our schools, has grappled with and successfully implemented ways to continue its presence and support of our communities. In some new and unexpected sources of formation we have experienced the joys of true fellowship and we have become reacquainted with prayer and scripture.

It is not difficult to see in the strange saga of Robinson Crusoe a parable of our own condition during this pandemic. We are cast adrift but at the same time, we are all living this One Wild and Precious Life of ours together. We are all Robinsons providing solace and companionship to others in our shipwrecked culture.

## COVID19 United in Prayer and Daily Prayer Meditations

The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Now, in our troubled, pandemic times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in 'the domestic church' that is, in our own communities. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the MLF Team has sent a weekly COVID19 United in Prayer and daily prayers/meditations to all Marist schools in Australia.

Life is hard at the moment, there are no two ways about it. But for those that wonder why prayer is important, then the idea of hope is all you need to consider. When we pray together as a community



of faith we start to think about our problems and the larger condition of the world around us, differently. Regular prayer can certainly help us foster a more positive approach to life.

#### Marist College Ashgrove Services Staff Formation Program

At Marist College Ashgrove the Services Staff including Grounds, Gardens, Kitchen & Dining, Maintenance, Canteen, Pool, Laundry and Stores are participating in the second, of a three years formation program. Having explored our Marist story, this year's theme is Marist spirituality.

It is a great opportunity for the staff from various service departments, who provide such wonderful service to the staff and the students at the College, to gather and spend some time at a different pace. Hindu, Muslim and Christian faiths came together to learn about Marist spirituality and share their own beliefs and traditions.

#### Mid-Winter Retreat – Journeying with Matthew

In previous years we have enjoyed our Marist Mid-Winter Retreat at Mittagong however, for 2 days across 9-10 July this year we participated in our first ever Marist Association **Online** Mid-Winter Retreat. Some 100 people individually registered online with others engaging in communities and groups. 25% registered were International Marists from Sri Lanka, the Pacific, New Zealand, Timor-Leste, and the Philippines.

Fr Chris Monaghan led us superbly throughout the two days reflecting on the five major discourses of the Gospel according to Matthew. Retreatants had a chance to pray and take time out to reflect on the gospel message in their lives today. Fr Chris Monaghan reminded us to keep looking for the daily moments of grace in our lives and wonderfully broke open the Word for us.

"It was really beautiful to be led into an

excellent overview of Matthew's Gospel. I also learnt that unless you speak from the heart as Fr Chris did, you won't touch any other heart".

"The retreat helped me discover a deeper desire to continue reflecting on the life of Jesus as he reveals himself one with the Father in union with the Spirit. The presentation and content of the retreat helped me walk with Jesus along his journey as he lived, taught, loved and showed compassion to his people."

#### Zoom...Zoom...into In The Marist Way

The program for staff new to Marist Schools, In the Marist Way, draws upon the Marist story and the shared wisdom of the participants. In 2020, the Covid-19 situation has enabled this connection to form and develop in a different way as the program moved to an online platform. The conversations remain rich as participants make connections to the Marist life in their school to the story, spirituality and pedagogy of Marist Catholic education. At a recent program, one participant remarked that "... discussing the Marist approach and the ways we work together to integrate our values and spirituality into the life of the College was a key learning for me". With the uncertainty the pandemic brings, the In the Marist Way program will continue to develop its online presence into the near future.

#### The Vision Still Has Time - A seven-part reflection series

In continuing to provide support and formation for Members of the Association a number of resources have been designed that provide an opportunity for ongoing spiritual reflection, a space of engagement and connection, and an ease of accessibility for Marists across Australia.

The Vision Still Has Time is an online resource, to which people can subscribe, which can be reflected upon individually, or together in small groups (some Local Groups are connecting together through digital platforms, or where appropriate, together physically).

Written by Brother Mark O'Connor FMS, this



Madelaine Arbuthnot, Emily Court, Ian Francis, Jan Massaro-Chandler, Amy McCormack, Jonathon Volosinas, Carmen Weaver and Robyn Rebbechi from LaValla Catholic College Traralgon

series consists of 7 short meditations on our humanity, faith, seeking God, compassion, prayer and the state of our hearts.

#### The Art of Reading **Scripture**

In June, the Mission and Life Formation Team launched a newly designed e-learning formation experience called The Art of Reading and Praying Scripture. This course consists of 4 x 1-hour online modules that examine different methods of reading and praying Scripture. In particular, each module focuses on a distinctive methodology to interpret and pray the Divine Word of God.

The course has received an overwhelming response, seeing close to 250 participants enrol. One of the participants who has completed the course is Anthony Ndaira (Marist College Eastwood), who shares his reflection below:

"The course helped to affirm how Scripture is the inspired Word of God. As the inspired Word of God, I was able to reflect on how to develop a closer relationship with the Divine. In exploring a range of passages such as miracle stories, writings from the Pentateuch, Psalms and through the exploration of various characters such as Moses, Mary Magdalene, the paralytic man, the Apostles on the

boat - I was able to build my capacity to imagine, listen, reflect and read Scripture in a new way. Much like the range of people that are explored in these passages (sinners, saints, men, women etc.) we, too, are each called to walk with God and strive to grow in holiness. Scripture reminds us that we are all called."





# 'REGEN': A CHAMPAGNAT INSPIRED YOUTH GROUP A MARIST EDUCATOR'S REFLECTION

Marist education has been an amazing part of my life for the last 15 years and during that time I was given the gift of going on the Marist Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Champagnat country. The Marist Pilgrimage showed me what it means to know and love Jesus in the way of Mary, to develop in my students a strong mind and a gentle heart. The spiritual insight gained from the Pilgrimage is something that I try to embed in every aspect of my teaching.

The Pilgrimage taught me that being Marist means walking together with my students, creating a space where we can learn from each other. The learning from each other has led to something very special that I would love to share; our St Teresa's College Youth Group. The students named the Youth Group, 'Regen', short for regenerate. I delight in the fact that its success comes from its deeply laid Marist foundations. The success of Regen is a

story of following Champagnat's vision of walking in the way of Mary to know and love Jesus. As Father Champagnat shared with his young Brothers at their table, this is also a story of young people gathering around a table of family spirit and creating something that is worth sharing.

St Teresa's Catholic College, Noosaville, is a coastal co-educational secondary College of a little over eight hundred students. As with many Catholic schools the students' connection with Religion is predominantly school based. Our students are not averse to Religion, however they are, like so many in secular society, often indifferent to it. When students talk about Church they often talk about a perceived 'Church of No', however when our Parish, Priest Father Jason Middleton, talks of the Church it is always a 'Church of Yes', a Church of great joy. When I was on Pilgrimage Brother Michael Green spoke at Cana about the abundance of wine and

the abundance of God's love for all people and the joy that came from that outpouring. When our Principal, David McInnes, talks to the College community he always speaks about a God of love. The message was there but what was needed was a way to put the message of love and joy into action.

The first aspect of Champagnat's vision that we turned to, was his choice of starting with very young Marist Brothers to be the first teachers. We chose to start Regen by training students in Years 11 and 12 to deliver the program to our Years 7 and 8 students and only have teachers as guides. The second aspect of Champagnat's ministry that we wanted to implement was the special place of breaking bread together at one table. Every Regen session has a particular focus on food, and we have a pizza oven that the students built that is often called into action. Regen has developed an iconic meal, the oven baked

Many of the activities are dreamed up by student leaders



Students working together on an activity

desert pizza with melted chocolate, eaten with ice-cream. We have burnt so many pizzas, but the students love making and eating the food together and together we have become masters of the pizza oven.

Champagnat was also a man of action. Always moving, Regen is fast paced with lots of 'Minute to Win It' games and group activities. The action is balanced with Champagnat's love of contemplative prayer and in the middle of the three-hour session we gather, seated in a large circle, reflecting on our scripture-based theme. Inclusion is always at the core of everything we do, students are invited to share a word or a sentence or a story. We often see very shy students start with offering only a word, then after a few

Students gathering for the Regen chant

weeks of Regen they are telling a story. Allowing the students to have a voice and be heard is a very important part of Regen. The Regen sessions finish with students coming together in a circle holding hands and praying our College Prayer together.

By keeping Champagnat's Marist vision always at the forefront of the planning process, we have been able to create something that is truly driven by the Holy Spirit. We started with 15 students and, before we were forced to slow down because of COVID-19, we had close to 80 students sign up. This increase was in the space of six months. It hasn't always been smooth sailing; there have been bumps in the road but that is also a path that Champagnat walked and we often turn to his example of resilience. There have been so many surprises and they have all been

enlightening. It was a surprise to find so many young students coming and desperately wanting this spiritual space, and it was also a surprise to find so many older students that wanted to lead it. I continue to be surprised by the depth of wisdom that our students bring to Regen. It is an honour to bear witness to it.

I have written this article about Regen to share something that is truly wonderful, and student driven, but also to say thank you. Thank you to Father Champagnat who believed that if we love Jesus in the way of Mary truly amazing things can be achieved. And to say thank you to all the Marist Brothers and to Marist Schools Australia for continuing the Marist vision and making it so accessible to our teachers and students that need Champagnat's vision of compassion in these difficult times, now more than ever.



#### **Archdiocese of Adelaide**

Cardijn College, Noarlunga Marcellin Technical College, Noarlunga Sacred Heart College, Adelaide

#### **Archdiocese of Brisbane**

Carmel College, Thornlands
Marist College, Ashgrove
Mount Maria College, Mitchelton
Mt Maria College, Petrie
St Joseph's School, Murgon
St Peter Claver College, Riverview
St Teresa's College, Noosaville
St Thomas More School, Sunshine Beach
Trinity College, Beenleigh

#### **Diocese of Darwin**

Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs

#### **Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Assumption College, Kilmore Marcellin College, Bulleen St Patrick's Primary School, Kilmore

#### **Archdiocese of Perth**

Newman College, Churchlands St Joseph's School, Northam

#### **Archdiocese of Sydney**

Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood
Marcellin College, Randwick
Marist College, Eastwood
Marist College, Kogarah
Marist College, North Shore
Marist Catholic College, Penshurst
St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill
St Michael's Primary School, Daceyville
The John Berne School, Lewisham
Trinity Catholic College, Auburn/Regents Park

#### **Diocese of Bunbury**

**Bunbury Catholic College** 

#### **Diocese of Cairns**

St Augustine's College, Cairns Good Counsel College, Innisfail



#### MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

Marist Schools Australia is a network of Catholic school communities which draw on Marist spirituality and educational principles to help animate their mission and shape their identity

#### **Archdiocese of Canberra/Goulburn**

Marist College, Canberra

#### **Diocese of Lismore**

Trinity Catholic College, Lismore

#### **Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton St Peter's Campus (All Saints College) Maitland

#### **Diocese of Parramatta**

Marist Learning Zone, Mt Druitt Parramatta Marist High School, Westmead Pete's Place, Blacktown St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas

#### **Diocese of Rockhampton**

Chanel College, Gladstone Marist College, Emerald

#### **Diocese of Sale**

Catholic College, Sale Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon Marist-Sion College, Warragul

#### **Diocese of Sandhurst**

Galen Catholic College, Wangaratta Marist College, Bendigo Notre Dame College, Shepparton

#### **Diocese of Townsville**

Burdekin Catholic High School, Ayr St Francis Xavier School, Ayr

#### **Diocese of Wagga Wagga**

Marian Catholic College, Griffith St Francis de Sales College, Leeton

#### **Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes**

Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes Holy Family School, Parkes

#### **Diocese of Wollongong**

John Therry High School, Rosemeadow Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville St Gregory's College, Campbelltown

#### **District of Melanesia**

**New Caledonia:** Lycée Professionnelle St Marcellin Champagnat, Collège Sainte Marie, Collège Champagnat, Ecole Sacré Cœur.

Papua New Guinea: St Joseph's College and Vocational School Mabiri, Early Childhood Education Centre (Bougainville).

**Solomon Islands:** St Joseph's Catholic Secondary School Tenaru, St Dominic's Rural Training Centre, St Marcellin Primary School and Kindergarten, Vanga Point.

**Vanuatu:** Lycée et Collège Technique St Michel, Santo.

## EST BOB STEWART 1925

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