



From Dr Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

We all know from our junior Geography lessons that Australia is the driest continent on earth. A brief review of weather records for the past 200 years readily presents the reality of repeated periods of drought in different parts of the country. The current drought effecting Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria is among the most severe on record.

With the majority of Australians being coastal and urban dwellers, experience of drought is often limited to camera footage on the nightly television news or pictures on front pages of newspapers. However drought pervades all aspects of life for those in effected areas. Drought takes a painful, slow and strengthening grip on the land, gradually restricting life under endless days of cloudless pale blue skies. For farmers and graziers, the urgency grows as feed stockpiled for a dry season becomes depleted and grain, hay and water has to be bought to keep sheep and cattle alive. White brittle grass, scant among the dust and dirt slowly disappears all together. Animals weakened by hunger and thirst fall as carrion to crows and other birds of prey. Dams become empty and parched, their floors a cracked maze of dried clay. The country looks so desolate as to despair. A drought costs money and the associated financial pressures are immense.

As a family of schools, collectively Marists serve many families from the current drought effected areas. Last week I was honoured to be a dinner guest of the boarders at Assumption College in Kilmore. Much of our conversation that evening was to do with the drought, and its impact. What impressed most was the resilience and hope evident among these good young people, and the affection and admiration with which they spoke of their parents. In responding to the calamity of drought, it has long been the custom for Catholics in the bush to “pray for rain”. Bishop Columba Macbeth, a past student of Red Bend Catholic College and from a farming family, has made an urgent request for prayers from people all over Australia. Last week after travelling to meet with stricken farmers Bishop Columba said,

“Please join us in prayer and solidarity as we beg the Lord for rain to bring relief to our soil and to our farmers. Let us ask Our Lady of Perpetual Help, to grant us rain and assistance for farmers and properties who are stricken with drought.”

Tomorrow as we celebrate the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady, let us join as one in prayer with and through Mary, for our fellow Australians suffering in the current crisis caused by drought, and ask God to grant us rain.

Saint Vincent de Paul have launched a Drought Appeal and donations can be made by calling 13 18 12 or visiting www.vinnies.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

15-18 Aug Contemplative Retreat - Mittagong
17 Aug MYM Super Connect - Melbourne
17 Aug MYM Marist Connect - Macarthur
17 Aug MYM Marist Connect - Brisbane
22-24 Aug Being Marist Conference, Melbourne
23-25 Aug Care for the Soul Retrea, Mittagong
24-26 Aug Remar Gold Retreat - NSW

26-29 Aug Footsteps1 - Mittagong
30-31 Aug Marist Assistant Principals Conference
9-12 Sept Footsteps2 - Mittagong
13 Oct MSA Mass and Dinner - Brisbane
28-31 Oct Footsteps1 - Mittagong
2 Nov MSA Mass and Dinner - Sydney
1 Dec MSA Mass and Dinner - Melbourne



Being Marist Conference 2018

This national biannual conference invites staff from diverse areas of support in both our schools and ministries, to gather, share and deepen their experience of being Marist.

The conference title for 2018, A Future filled with Audacity and Hope, connects with our Association theme, offering a program that allows participants to engage with Marist spirituality and their own personal faith journey.

Date: 22 - 24 August 2018
Venue: Marist Centre Melbourne,
1 Dawson St, Brunswick.
Cost: \$270 (plus own transport and accommodation arrangements)

Registration online through the schools
Booking Officer at

www.msa.edu.au/registration-for-programmes

For further information, contact
paul.harris@marists.org.au or phone (02) 9218 4000.

MARIST ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE

Date: 30 - 31 August 2018
Venue: Marist Centre Brisbane

Registrations are now open for the upcoming
National Marist Assistant Principals Conference

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



LAVALLA & CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia, and/or consider submitting an article for the Champagnat Journal.

The cut-off date for contributions to the third edition of Lavalla and Champagnat Journal for 2018 is **Friday, 21 September**. All submissions should be sent to Br Tony Paterson (tony.paterson@marists.org.au).

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

The National Director of Marist Schools Australia, Dr Frank Malloy, invites suitably qualified applicants for the position of Assistant Principal and Head of Senior School at **St Gregory's College Campbelltown**.

For a full application package or an expression of interest, please contact Filipe Gama e Silva - filipe.gamaesilva@marists.org.au

[CLICK HERE](#) for further information

Vinnies launches drought appeal

With New South Wales among areas experiencing severe drought, the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW has launched an appeal to raise funds for rural communities in need.

The Vinnies Drought Appeal will provide immediate relief through food assistance and other household bill payments; fund the delivery of water and animal feed by partner organisations; and organise social events for rural communities to come together and find support. [Read more here.](#)

Details: www.vinnies.org.au





FOOTSTEPS 2, 17-20 June 2018

With the icy wind a-blowin', the 'feel like' temperature was minus 5 degrees as the participants, from 16 schools, arrived at the Hermitage on Sunday 17 June. The Footsteps 2 program invites Marists to delve deeper into the charism and into one's own experience of faith and church. "Making Jesus Christ known and loved" is our underlying mission as Marists, and whenever we come together to share this experience, there is an immediate bonding and connection between people.

SIGNS OF HOPE - PARKES

Staff at Holy Family Primary School, Parkes, gathered to reflect on the Christian virtue of hope and its ability to build positive relationships within a school community. Based on the writings of Pope Francis that 'a single individual is enough for hope to exist' time was given for personal reflection on their lives and the significant impact a local community has to create spaces of hope when life is shared together.



Rachel Jones, Andrew Berger, Tami Hennock, Michael Somers

LEADERSHIP FROM A MARIAN PERSPECTIVE

Our inaugural 'Leadership from a Marian Perspective' program took place across two weekends in Melbourne in May 2018. High quality presentations were given and lively discussions took place across the four days. Participants are now proceeding with their University assessment requirements.



Br Michael Green, Br Hubert Williams, Grant Barclay, James McIlloy, Sue Nabbs, Br John McMahon, Br Mark O'Connor



10 August, 2018

Dear Marist Colleagues,

RE: Acting CEO appointed at AMS

The board of Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) has appointed Mr Ashley Bulgarelli as Acting CEO of AMS during the professional enrichment leave of the current CEO, Brother Allen Sherry.

Ashley is currently AMS Co-ordinator of Projects and International Partnerships. He has worked for four and a half years at AMS and recently completed a Masters degree in international development studies.

This arrangement will take effect 15 August, 2018 and conclude on 5 November, 2018.

I wish Allen a valuable period away with his development studies and attendance at fundraising conferences and assure Ashley that he will be strongly supported by the AMS board members and AMS committee chairpersons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Sheehan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and "S".

Peter Sheehan
Chairperson, AMS board

YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP DAY AT RED BEND CATHOLIC COLLEGE FORBES

The MYM Sydney team had the pleasure of working with the Year 11 students at Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes on Monday, 6 August. The focus of the day was leading in the Marist way, using all the 5 Marist characteristics; in the way of Mary, simplicity, presence, family spirit and love of work. We stressed that all students are leaders, whether they have a captain's badge or not. As the students move into Year 12, we know the College will remain in 'good hands' for 2019!



LOCAL CONNECT GATHERINGS FOR TERM 3

This term's local Connect gatherings have been focused on building community in our schools. Research shows that with the introduction of the iPhone, the feelings of loneliness and isolation have increased. Students engaged in conversation with their respective teachers about ways they can help build community in their school and therefore turning the 'iGen' into the 'wiiGen.' Thank you to Champagnat Catholic College, Pagewood for hosting the local Randwick Region Connect and Trinity Catholic College, Auburn for hosting the Eastwood Region Connect. We are grateful to St Gregory's College, Campbelltown for hosting the Macarthur Region Connect to be held this Friday 17 August.



Randwick Connect held at Champagnat Catholic College Pagewood



Eastwood Connect held at Trinity Catholic College Auburn



The National Marist Business Managers Conference The Hermitage, Mittagong – 1-4 July 2018

The National Marist Business Managers gathered at The Hermitage in Mittagong from 1 - 4 July for the Biennial Conference. The theme for this year was 'Hope and a Future'. Twenty-eight Business Managers attended the conference from Northam and Perth in the west to Alice Springs and Port Moresby in the north.

The key note speaker for our conference Br Peter Carroll, our Provincial, imparted reflections on the General Chapter XXII. Dr Frank Malloy, National Director Marist Schools Australia, and Br Kelvin Canavan provided an historical overview of school funding – this then led to the next guest speaker Dr Lee-Anne Perry, Executive Director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. Dr Perry discussed the current state of play of school funding. Br Graham Neist gave us a thought provoking presentation on Living Contemplatively.

Following a presentation from Joe McCarthy on the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat, we then put our 'finance' hats on as Katrina Donaghy from Civic Ledger gave us some insight into Blockchain. Ryan Felsman, Senior Economist, @CommSec, provided us with an economic update. Andrew Despi and Davey Wang from CBA Emerging Technology, Enterprise Services provided a different point of view with their lively session on Blockchain. Other speakers included CCI, Richard Allen from Spielberg Solutions Australia (Document Management Solutions); and Cheryl Caughley and David Mansul from the Archdiocesan Development Fund Brisbane.

Our final presentation was from Andrew May, Partner Performance Clinic KPMG who guided the group through a very enjoyable session on Lifestyle, Health and Wellbeing.



Care for the Soul Retreat

Two recent *Care for the Soul* retreats have been held at Mittagong and an abridged version in Newman College Perth. Fifteen participants joined us for our Mittagong retreat while 30 Marists joined us for the Twilight retreat in Perth. The feedback offered by our participants emphasises the great value in stepping back from the busy nature of ministry and daily life. It is reassuring to see that the acceptance of such retreats is proving to be so valuable to so many Marists. I include a few of their comments for your interest.

From the Newman College Retreat:

- I have neglected my inner garden for too long. By giving time to silence I make room for my soul to grow.
- The message received by me is most timely - cast into the deep with trust.
- The insight into the value of silence and how to tap into this constant ignored companion has greatly assisted me.

From the Mittagong Retreat:

- A really worthwhile experience to enjoy the stillness and further the spiritual nourishment and journey of the soul.
- The retreat was perfectly timed and relevant to anyone. The sessions gave us just the right amount of thought provoking content without overloading us. A perfect location for Spiritual Retreats.
- An amazing retreat that has come at the right time for me in my life's journey.



Hermitage Villas at Mittagong



Our first Villa occupant, Sr Monica Whelan, took up residence last week for a private retreat.

The two villas are fully operational and are available for those wishing to do a private retreat or to spend some time with the La Valla Hermitage community. Guests may choose to self-cater or can select a catering package as part of their time here. In time it is our vision to have two more similar villas available for those wishing to come here for a private retreat.

Details of the retreats available can be found on our website www.thehermitage.org.au or just ring us here at the Hermitage.

Br Bill Sullivan