



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Brother Michael Green

24 July 2012

Dear Members of the Marist Family

I'll be a sucker for it. Always am. The Olympics. I'll be glued to the opening ceremony, follow as many as I can of the events where Aussies are competing (except maybe the boxing and the synchronised swimming), and pump with pride every time *Advance Australia Fair* is played. I've already downloaded the Foxtel app. All set. Love it.

But behind all the hype, what are the Olympics all about? What matters? The question is well explored in a stage adaptation of the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire* which has recently opened in London's West End. The two real life characters – the gutsy and principled Eric Liddell from Scotland and the privileged and professional Harold Abrahams from London via Repton and Cambridge – have very different approaches to their participation in the 1924 Paris Games. Famously, Liddell withdraws from his heat in the blue riband one hundred metres because it falls on a Sunday, foregoing all for which he has long dreamed. His reasons are religious and unbending. Abrahams goes on to take the gold, with the help of a paid coach (tut, tut). His motivations are unconvincing but effective.

Mike Bartlett's script does not have the characters play out a one-dimensional principle-versus-opportunism battle. That would be simplistic. Neither on the stage nor in real life was it like that. It was not a tussle of good and evil, or even of morality and amorality. But the play does explore the nature and basis of character, of heroism, and of legacy. Liddell went on to be a missionary in China, was imprisoned by the Japanese, and was executed in 1945 after having volunteered to take the place of another internee. He remains a hero in Scotland to this day. Abrahams became a distinguished barrister, sports journalist, and senior sports administrator.

Schools can be like the Olympics. They can sometimes get caught up in their own life, even their own hype, and lose sight of why they are doing it all in the first place. Is it just to win? To be ahead of the rest? To be outstanding, full-stop? To attract acclaim? To be able to take a bow? While this applies most obviously to school sport, it can just as much the case in the other activities and pursuits of the school, even – dare it be whispered – in something such as grand liturgy! It is not to demean the inherent value of anything – whether it be academic results, or a musical programme, or capital improvements, or whatever – but simply to be able to respond with conviction to the question Eric Liddell, "Why are you running, Harold?"

There will always be some ambivalence around this question, but it remains well worthy of our continued scrutiny. It is important for us to look beyond the cheers and medals. With devious irony, this new production of *Chariots of Fire* ends with some *Rule Britannia* nationalistic jingoism, enticing the audience to join in the singing. And they do. Hype has that effect.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

22 – 25 July	Footsteps #02, The Hermitage Mittagong	•	9 – 11 Aug	Proclaim 2012 - Conference on the New Evangelisation - The Concourse, Chatswood
25 July	Montagne Centre Staff Formation Day, Brunswick	•	•	•
29 – 30 July	Studies Coordinators' Retreat Day, St Francis Xavier College	•	10 Aug	MSA Leadership Team Meeting - Drummoyne
30 July	Marist Pedagogy (1), MARist College Kogarah	•	12 – 15 Aug	Mission Assembly
30 July	MSA/MLF Regional Melbourne Meeting	•	17 Aug	Petrie 25 Years Mass - Mount Maria College
30 July – 1 Aug	National Formation Network Meeting, Adelaide	•	17 Aug	Rockhampton Diocesan Education Council
4 – 5 Aug	Berne Staff Family Retreat, Mittagong	•	17 Aug	Staff Spirituality Day - Red Bend Catholic College
6 Aug	Marist Pedagogy (2)	•	19–22 Aug	Footsteps #03 - The Hermitage Mittagong
7 Aug	Mary, the Mature Disciple, St Francis Xavier College	•	24 Aug	Staff Formation Day - Marcellin College Bulleen
		•	26–28 Aug	Living Champagnat's Vision Retreat - Santa Teresa, Alice Springs
		•	•	•
		•	27 Aug	Marist Pedagogy (3) - Kogarah
		•	28 Aug	Gippsland Region ICW: NSID - Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon



'NEW HORIZONS' IN VIETNAM - APPLY NOW

Teachers who are interested in travelling to Vietnam and volunteering with the 'New Horizons' project either later this year or any time in 2013 are asked to contact Catherine Hannon, the Volunteering and Advocacy Officer. Email: catherine.hannon@marists.org.au OR Phone: (02) 8752 8233 to request an application form. For more information on the New Horizons project see the link below.

<http://www.msa.edu.au/storage/21052012%20Australian%20Marist%20Volunteers%20-%20Vietnam%20-%20New%20Horizons%20A3%20revision%204.pdf>

OPENING OF NEW FACILITIES AT BEENLEIGH



Last week Trinity College Beenleigh opened a number of new facilities, among which was the Fourvière Chapel. It features a large stained glass design recalling the event of 23 July 1816 when St Marcellin and eleven companions climbed the hill of Fourvière in Lyon, the day after their ordination, to pledge themselves to form the Marists. The window was designed by Brother Tony Leon.

SOME RECENT EVENTS FROM SYDNEY MLF TEAM

The six Year and Boarding Supervisors from St Joseph's College Hunters Hill, spent a morning looking at the prayer life in the boarding school. They shared experiences and considered ways to help their boarding staffs develop prayer programs, styles and experiences to enrich the prayer life of the boys in the boarding school. They were joined by Brother Anthony Boyd the Deputy Headmaster of the College.



Photo Caption from left: Sam Walker (yr10), Anthony Rooskie (Yr8), Jeremy Ticehurst (Yr12), Pat Rodgers (yr11), Danny Sidgreaves (Yr7), Darren Junea (yr9)

A Workshop afternoon with 20 volunteers from Staff of Trinity College Auburn/Regents Park was held as part of their Lay Marists prayer group. Time was spent on our contemporary understanding of Mary and what the Marist story means by the 'Marist face' of the Church.



Photo Caption, from Left: Cheryl Keane, Michelle Holmsy (REC), Tracy Ford, Martina Rotta (AP), Br Paul Bailey, Allanna Vedder (Principal), Lori Narunsky, Sarah Lopes

A Reflection afternoon with 15 staff from St Michael's Parish primary school Daceyville was held as part of a 4 session program considering their own spiritual journeys and how their combined energies can inform a newly developing Mission



ST FRANCIS SCHOOL AYR CENTENARY CELEBRATION 7-9 SEPTEMBER 2012

St Francis will be celebrating their centenary anniversary on the weekend of 7-9 September 2012.

For more details, contact St Francis School
Email: ayr@tsv.catholic.edu.au
Telephone: 07 4783 2877



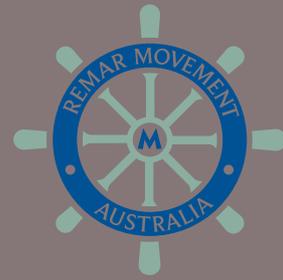
AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY INVITED INTO NEW PARTNERSHIPS IN THAILAND

In partnership with the Marist Ad Gentes project throughout Asia, Australian Marist Solidarity is now helping to support forty young Burmese migrants (aged 15-25). They are living in Samut Sakhon, a coastal province in Thailand, and a program will be developed for them to acquire skills in basic computing and information technology. This will be combined with job referral assistance once these students complete their training modules at which time they will have the confidence to seek out paid-work opportunities.



Photo caption: The Ad Gentes project has seen a Marist Brothers Community establish a similar education centre in Pailin, in north-west Cambodia

This project forms part of a larger two-year commitment being driven by Ad Gentes and the Catholic Diocese of Bangkok, which began in response to the significant socio-economic challenges experienced by the Burmese migrant population around the Thai border. Over the next two years, partner organisations are working to develop a Marist Education Centre which will provide basic education to an additional 120 Burmese children, adult education opportunities, as well as address issues of malnutrition and health care for all beneficiaries. MAPS intern, Hamish McLoughlin, has been instrumental in acting as a liaison between our office and our Ad Gentes partners in Thailand and this has created new energies and possibilities around stronger collaboration across the region.



REMAR AT CLAVER

Queensland school, St Peter Claver College embarked on a new challenge this year with the introduction of the co-curricular Marist ministry program called *Remar* to its Year 10 students. Although *Remar* was based in 14 Catholic colleges in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and Western Australia, *St Peter Claver College* is the first school in Queensland to pilot the current *Remar* program.

My initial thoughts at being invited to be involved with the *Remar* program as its coordinator and first helm included: 'Is this going to work with our students?' 'I wonder if anyone will actually sign up?' Then the day came for the *Remar* Ministry Team to visit our school. The team consisting of young people who had been part of the program themselves for 3 years, and who had just left school.



They did their presentation, and much to my surprise, 70 Claver students said they would like to learn more. I was overwhelmed!

From there, students had to make a commitment to being part of the Embarkation Camp a few weeks later. 'Dedication and Sacrifice' were what was required (these two words encompassing the values by which the *Remar* Rowers (students) live.) Twenty-six students went away on the Embarkation Camp, held at Burpengary, north of Brisbane, and from that group twenty-five have now committed to being part of the *Remar* journey for this year. The Embarkation Camp was a turning point for many. The Red Rowers from Claver, are living out the *Remar* motto and 'Sailing away from mediocrity'!



*David Campbell
Remar Coordinator and Red Helm
St Peter Claver College
Riverview, Queensland*

Remar is well and truly up and running at St Peter Claver College, and the students are embracing all the challenges and rewards that come their way, and loving it!