

Star MESSENGER

Dear Brothers and Champagnat Marists

Many people have commented on the expansiveness of the Star of the Sea Province. And they're correct. From Perth, Western Australia to Tarawa, Kiribati is 7,100km; from Christchurch, New Zealand to Phnom Penh, Cambodia is 9,161km. The distances between Brothers' communities are enormous, and distance is only one aspect of the expansiveness. In Kiribati, there are three time zones and in Australia there are six. There's seven hours' time difference between Kiribati and Cambodia. The implications of this expansiveness are significant.

One of the realities for leadership, communication, community-building is that we will need to rely heavily on technology. In many ways we are most fortunate. At this time in history, ICT has developed to a point where we can have instant contact with most places in the world. This is in contrast to our early Brothers in Oceania and Australia; it literally took months for letters to arrive from the Superiors in France, and more months for replies to be received by them. Additionally, one of the noticeable advantages of the COVID period was the necessity for greater reliance on, and confidence in, the use of technology such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams for meetings. We've benefited from this. The District's 'Conversations' and Province's 'Forums' were able to continue via such technology. We will take this into Star of the Sea, where distances (and costs) will prevent frequent or multiple in-person gatherings. Even many Provincial Council meetings will need to be via such mediums.

While most of the Working Groups have now ceased their labour, the 'Communications' group continues its work. Some of its key issues:

- **Domain name for the Province:** this refers to the online identity of the Province, and in a sense, identity

of members of the Province. The New Province Executive has already accepted that the new domain name will be mariststar.org. The Province's current domain name is marists.org.au; the District's is fmspacific.com. This new one will give us an identity on the web and facilitate communication.

- **Website:** a simple Province website will be ready for 8 December. On that date, it will be found at www.mariststar.org. It will evolve and grow over time, but there's nothing there yet.
- **Email accounts** for all members of the Province will be created, using the domain name mariststar.org. There will be more about this in a **future edition** of the Star Messenger.
- **Consolidated Database.** While this is really only an issue for Province Leaders and management, it's important to have a database that brings together the information about Brothers from the Province and District. This is underway and basic decisions have been made.

It's important that every Brother who can, has the skills to send and receive emails and to log-in to, and participate in, online meetings. Pre-requisites are suitable hardware (computers, tablets, smart phones) and having the right programmes or applications downloaded onto devices. We will be setting up some **training and 'help-desk'** arrangements for those who need assistance.

All Saints and All Souls Days

We are only at this point in our history because of all those who have gone ahead of us, laboured earnestly, witnessed faithfully and committed to the mission: our Marists souls and saints. Let's remember them collectively on November 1 and 2. If possible, it would be ideal to gather at our cemetery plots to pray for and honour them.



Br Peter Carroll FMS
Provincial Designate

This week's *'Star Feature'* is: **Australia**



Marist Solidarity Retreat, Alice Springs



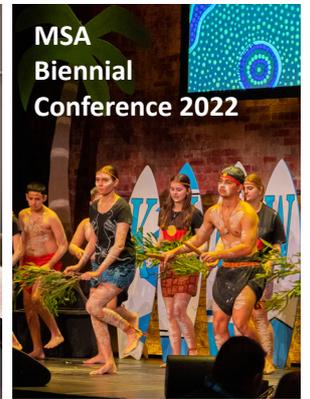
Br Frank Hough, Santa Teresa



Br Tony Caddy, Students OLSH Alice Springs



Brothers Retreat, Mittagong



MSA Biennial Conference 2022



Marist Youth Ministry



Marist Association Local Gathering, Adelaide



Rosalie QLD Community



Marist Learning Zone



Lavalla200> Mt Druitt



Marist Centre Sydney staff



Marist College Ashgrove



Aquinas College, Adelaide



Heidelberg West



Dr Frank Malloy, National Director MSA

Australia

Overview

2022 is the sesquicentenary of the establishment of the Marist Brothers' first community and school in Australia, at The Rocks in Sydney. From this very small and humble beginning, Marist life and education flourished. Over the past 150 years, the Marists have worked in 20 of the 28 Australian Dioceses, and in every State and Territory, save Tasmania. During this period, administration and governance arrangements have varied. In 1948 the communities and ministries were divided into two Provinces, one based in Melbourne and one in Sydney. In 2012, these were joined to form the second iteration of the Australian Province.

Currently there are 174 Brothers in the Province of Australia, with some working in overseas ministries including the General House in Rome, in initial formation of the Brothers' in Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Timor-Leste or in the special mission in Cambodia established in 1998.

Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

In 2015, the Province established the *Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat*. As the name indicates, it is an association of people who share commitment to the Marist tradition of St Marcellin and who seek to deepen their spirituality by common endeavour. The Association provides lay people in particular, with a way of self-identifying and formally belonging as Marists of Champagnat. There are currently over 800 members who meet in nearly 50 Local Groups spread across Australia. The Association is led by a Council selected by Members. When it was established, the Provincial Council delegated its administrative



National Identity	First Nations people inhabited Australia 65,000 years prior to European settlement in 1788. Commonwealth of Australia, Confederation of States and Territories formed 1 January, 1901
Capital	Canberra
Languages	English, 20 First Nations languages, Auslan (sign language)
Population	26 million
Time Zone	UTC +8hrs AWST Australian Western Standard Time Perth UTC +8.45 ACWST Australian Central Western Standard Time Alice Springs UTC +9.30 ACST Australian Central Standard Time Adelaide UTC +10 AEST Australian Eastern Standard Time Sydney
Main Religions	52% Christianity (22% Catholic); No Religion 30%; 8% Non-Christian; 9.7% Not stated
Arrival of Marists	1872 St Patrick's Church Hill in The Rocks area in Sydney. St Patrick's is still operating, relocated to Dundas in 1962.
Number of Marist Brothers	174
Number of Marist Brothers Communities	34
Number of Marist Schools	56

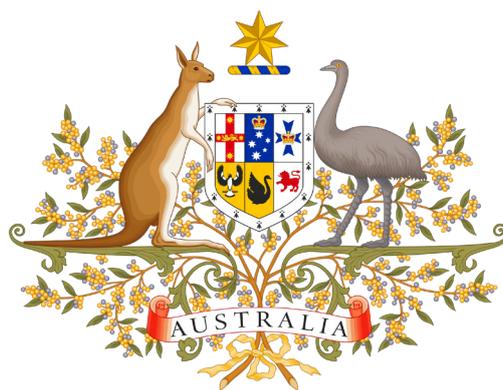
responsibilities for institutional ministries, particularly Marist Schools Australia, to the Association Council. In January 2022, the Association was incorporated. Every three years the Association convenes a National Assembly to give direction and vision to the life of the movement. The most recent one was held in August 2022.

Australian Marist Ministries

1. Marist Schools Australia (MSA) was established in 2010 by the Provinces of Melbourne and Sydney to manage and govern Province owned schools and provide direction and formation for all schools in the Marist Tradition. The National Director, three Regional Directors and the Director of Formation oversee the educational mission of 56 Marist Schools across Australia, including 13 Governed Schools. In January 2022, MSA was incorporated, with its own Constitution, Board and Chair. MSA Limited is a subsidiary of the Marist Association.
2. Marist Youth Ministry (MYM) – a National Director and two Regional Coordinators oversee school-based and post-school youth and young adults programs in schools.
3. Marist180 is another incorporated entity with its own Board and Chair. It grew out of the work at St Vincent's Boys Home and now provides residential care for young people and a suite of programmes for disadvantaged youth. It operates predominantly within NSW.
4. Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) is yet another independent Company. Its primary goal is to financially support Marist overseas development programmes and projects in the Asia-Pacific area.

Formation

The Marist Mission and Life Formation (MLF) Team consists of a team of nine, including three Brothers, who provide annual formation programs nationally, including Induction of new staff and leaders, leadership development, spirituality days and live-in retreats at The Hermitage Retreat Centre in Mittagong, NSW, about 1.5 hours south of Sydney.



Marist Life and Mission Groups

Name of Group	Number of Groups	Location	Active Members
Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat	50	Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory	884

Formation

Activity or Event	Description	Location
Marian Lecture	Annual lecture series delivered nationally and internationally	Online
Footsteps I and II	Three-day residential programs exploring the Marist story	Mittagong
In the Marist Way	Induction program for staff new to Marist Schools and Ministries (half-day)	Various Marist Schools
Mid-Winter Retreat	3 day residential retreat offers a time of insight and renewal for quiet reflection, spiritual reading and prayer	Mittagong
Marist Association Local Coordinators Conference	Time to support Local Coordinators, individual members, local communities and the broader Church. An opportunity to reflect, belong to, participate in, and grow the life of the Marist Association.	Sydney Brisbane Melbourne Online
Marist Contemplative Retreat	Two-and-a-half day Program designed for those drawn to Marist spirituality. This retreat allows you to deepen this relationship with God by learning a variety of prayer methods.	Mittagong
Marist Pilgrimage	19-day experience journeying to the heart of the sources of our Christian and Marist tradition	Holy Land, Rome, France
Solidarity Retreat	Three-day program encountering the living spirituality of the desert and Marist presence in Central Australia	Santa Teresa Alice Springs
National Staff Program	Each year the Marist Association offers a 4-5 hour (1 day) staff spirituality program based on its theme for the year	Various Marist Schools
Marist Educational Leadership	The program focuses on educational leadership from a Marist perspective	Online or in person