



Executive Summary

Oceania Council

15 April 2019

The XXII General Chapter provided the focus for the Institute for the next eight years. The strategic plan of the General Administration has proposed a number of initiatives and projects. At its recent meeting the Oceania Council spent time exploring and responding in four areas:

Network of Schools

What currently exists:

There is a Marist Oceania Education Network. It aims to build upon existing relationships across the various countries and educational jurisdictions in the Region. The Network has a mandate from the Oceania Council. Supporting one another, learning from one another between AUs in the Region and sharing human resources

Over the Easter weekend the Oceania Education Network (Dr Frank Malloy, Br Terence Costello and Mr Benedict Toomey) are hosting the *Southern Stars Leadership* program. This involves 24 Principals and senior teachers from across our Marist schools in Melanesia and the Pacific. The *Southern Stars* program is based on the African *New Horizons* program.

The program curriculum is designed in six stages to be conducted over a period of three years.

- 1 – Leadership: Attentive to the Signs of the Times
- 2 – Leadership: Role Models and Witnesses
- 3 – Leadership: Social Justice and Solidarity
- 4 – Leadership: Creating a Different Future
- 5 – Leadership: Embracing a New Paradigm
- 6 – Leadership: Skills for Sustaining a More Entrepreneurial Mission

Next steps for the Education Network:

Build closer alignment among all Oceania networks to maximise opportunities. The further development of the *Southern Stars Leadership* and similar programs from a global perspective to address the specific needs in each AU.

Further sharing of human resources e.g. teachers to be given opportunities to work across AUs to develop skills and capacity in a strategic manner to assist in areas of need. This would include volunteering opportunities in Melanesia and the Pacific.

Exploring the possibility of establishing Marist Schools Melanesia and Marist Schools Pacific.

Network of Youth

Among the current initiatives the following give a sense of scope of activities.

District of the Pacific: Student Leadership Forum, NZ; REMAR x2 schools in NZ; Youth Group, Fiji and Youth Retreats, Kiribati.

District of Melanesia: Youth Engagement, Bougainville and school-based initiatives.

Australia: REMAR and a new revised version. Post School Marist Youth Ministry *Connect*; Regional Assistance Youth Ministry; Marist House, Fitzroy; Internship FMSI and Volunteer opportunities.

Next steps to create a Network of Marist Youth Ministry:

Have an initial Oceania dialogue via Skype with personnel in each AU about the formation of a network. One aim would be to develop a regional plan for Youth Ministry and to explore the possibility of an Oceania Youth Forum in 2020/2021.

Leadership Formation

What is already happening in the AUs:

There are several leadership programs available in the Province and the two Districts. These include: *Champagnat in the Pacific*, *Wokabaot wantaim Champagnat program* in Melanesia, *In the Footsteps I and II* as well as Marist Schools Australia programs.

Next steps in Leadership Formation:

Encouraging Marists to take responsibility for their personal and professional formation.

To identify future leaders and to sponsor them to undertake further formation in leadership.

Spirituality and Nurturing Marist Life

Where are we now?

Each AU is putting considerable energy into the development of an awareness of being a 'Global Family' and initial and on-going formation in the Champagnat Marist charism and spirituality.

These programs are delivered by the Mission and Life Formation Team, Marist Schools Australia and formation programs offered in the Pacific and Melanesia. There is an informal network already existing for formation and spirituality through the Oceania Partnership Commission.

Next steps for Spirituality and Nurturing Marist Life:

To create some means by which the existing programs, places and people in the region can connect to the proposed global Spirituality Network.

The next meeting of the Oceania Council will be the August video conference.



L-R: Benedict Tooming, Jean-Marie Batick, Terence Costello, David McDonald, Dan Dungey, Sixtus Winduo, Peter Carroll, Tony d'Arbon, Frank Malloy, Kevin Wanden, Paul Kane