

**REPORT TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**PRINCIPAL'S SABBATICAL**

**TERM 2, 2008**



**JIM DALE**

**PRINCIPAL, SACRED HEART COLLEGE**

**AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

## **Countries Visited**

- Australia
- New Zealand
- England
- Scotland
- France
- Italy

## **Cities and Towns Visited**

- Brisbane
- (Noosa, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarrie) - Recreational
- Sydney
- Adelaide

## Schools Visited



Marist College Ashgrove, Brisbane

## Australia – 4 Schools

- Marist College Ashgrove – Brisbane
- Churchie Anglican College – Brisbane
- St. Joseph's College – Sydney
- Sacred Heart College – Adelaide

### **New Zealand Schools – 10 Schools**

- Kings Prep - Auckland
- Epsom Girls Grammar - Auckland
- Diocesan School for Girls - Auckland
- St Mary's College - Auckland
- Hamilton Boy's High School - Hamilton
- Napier Boy's High School - Napier
- St. John's College - Napier
- Palmerston North Boy's High School - Palmerston North
- Christchurch Boy's High School - Christchurch
- St. Bede's College - Christchurch

### **Sacred Heart College Feeder Schools – 10 Schools**

- St Joseph's Primary - Pukekohe
- St. Mary's Primary - Papakura
- St. Anne's Primary - Manurewa
- Mt. Carmel Primary - Meadowbank
- St. Mary's Primary - Ellerslie

- St. Michael's Primary - Remuera
- St. Joseph's Primary - Orakei
- St Ignatius Primary - St Heliers
- St. Pius Primary - Glen Innes
- St. Patrick's Primary - Panmure

(These Schools were visited prior to Term 2).

### **Conferences Attended**

- 'Sharing Our Call' - at The Hermitage, Mittagong, New South Wales, Australia
- 'Leading Together' - Association of Boys Schools, New Zealand Annual Conference in Wellington, New Zealand



**The Hermitage, Mittagong, New South Wales, Australia**

## **Forward and Acknowledgements**

The planning for my Term 2 Sabbatical began, not as one might think a few months prior to departure, but some fifteen years ago when I unsuccessfully applied for the Principal's position at Sacred Heart College in 1993. It is often quoted that one learns more from disappointment and failure than from achievement and success.

How true this is and certainly so in my case.

In 1993, as a young ambitious Catholic Deputy Headmaster in a state High School (Kelston Boys High School), I had a deep desire to connect my professional career with my Catholic Faith. It is only now, fifteen years later that I more fully realise that another hand was at play and that I was not yet 'ready'. Between then and now I have had the honour and privilege to lead two of New Zealand's prominent Boys High Schools:

- Rector of Timaru Boy's High School from 1994-1995
- Headmaster of Westlake Boy's High School from 1996-2006

The thirteen years of combined and accumulated experience in leading two Boys High Schools, one in the South Island with 105 years of history, and the other in the North Island, 55 years old. What a contrast. Traditional solid New Zealand and new, ambitious, highly mobile North Shore, New Zealand.

I could not have asked for, nor sought, a better all-round grounding for the demanding role as Rector Headmaster. I was blessed to work with so many outstanding teachers and dedicated Board Members at both schools. I will be forever in their debt.

My roles as Rector and Headmaster at Timaru and Westlake were brimming with challenges and achievements, locally, nationally and globally. For all the successes there was something missing – my Catholicism in action.

So some fourteen years later I got a second chance, a rare opportunity to try again. Why did I risk applying again? Two people.

First and foremost my wife Ann, who is Deputy Principal at Marist College (girls) Auckland. Without Ann's support, encouragement and confidence I would not have risked applying again. I hate losing – Ann's faith, Ann's unconditional love for me and our four sons are humbling. Without Ann at my side in the early stages of my application and tenure I truly doubt if the transition from State Secular to Special Character would have been so seamless and special. Thank you Ann.

And secondly, to Brother Michael Taylor, who is a Marist Brother at Sacred Heart College. Brother Michael was on the interviewing panel in 1993 when I missed out on the job, having been on the short list of five and in the last two. In the days following my unsuccessful final interview, Brother Michael took the time to write me a brief letter of comfort and consolation. I believe that he, of all the interviewers, really saw and understood my passion to be a Catholic Principal and that my failure would cut me deeply.

After all those years, whilst clearing out some old papers, I happened upon Brother Michael's letter of July 2006. It touched me deeply that he had empathised with me and my family in 1993.

How fortuitous was it then that the Principalship of Sacred Heart College was advertised in August 2006. Coincidence? I believe not. Faith and an enduring sense of what can be? - Yes.

So to my wife Ann, our four sons and Brother Michael Taylor, my deepest appreciation for keeping the flame of Education and Faith alive. After a secular journey of twenty eight years in six state schools I have finally reached my 'home'. The quest to explore and understand how I can be the most complete and effective Principal at Sacred Heart College is my greatest challenge to date. The role is much more than a manager, organiser or professional educator. The Special Character dimension demands much more, and rightly so.

St Marcellin Champagnat, had nothing to start with and gave everything including his young life. The opportunity which I (and Ann) had to discover and experience the very beginnings of the Marist Order was priceless. It was, and is, a privilege to be part of and serve the Marist Family. And now my faith journey in Education has just started again.

### **Sabbatical Overview and Highlights**

The goals of my sabbatical were three-fold throughout Term 2. The planning and organisation were purposely structured into three distinct stages.

## **1 AUSTRALIA**

Visiting, what are regarded as the three leading Marist Brothers Schools in Australia, founded under the same Champagnat Marist values and Charism, was a rare opportunity to witness Marist Education in action at:

- Marist College Ashgrove – Brisbane
- St Joseph's College – Sydney
- Sacred Heart College – Adelaide

### **Marist leaders conference**

'Sharing Our Call' – Mittagong, New South Wales.

The conference of Marist Leaders was spiritually uplifting.

An outstanding opportunity to network with Marist Principals from all over Australia.

## **2 NEW ZEALAND**

Visits to high achieving State Boys' High Schools, both in the North and the South Island. Additionally visits to two fellow Marist Schools (one Marist Brothers and one Marist Fathers) St. John's Hastings and St Bede's Christchurch.

Term 2 also afforded me a rare opportunity to visit three high achieving girls schools:

- Diocesan School for Girls (Private) – Visual Arts
- St Mary's College Auckland (Catholic) – Music
- Epsom Girls Grammar (State) – New Curriculum

I purposely sought out these three schools to investigate why and how they achieved so highly in their chosen areas of Visual Arts, Music, and Planning for the implementation of the New Curriculum in 2010.

The visit to King's Preparatory School in Remuera, Auckland, provided me with the opportunity to visit my colleague Tony Sissons, Principal of Kings Prep, to discuss the recent introduction of 'Thinking Skills' and 'Higher Order Thinking for Boys' initiative – New Curriculum Key Competencies. Tony and his Board have recently completed the construction and organisation of their new 'Thinking Building' on Remuera Rd. This particular building combines the school Library, Visual and Performing Arts, the Science Department and integrated ICT. A landmark, totally versatile facility costing \$11 million dollars – an investment in the future of young minds. This building is so versatile it is almost future-proofed!

Rarely, amidst the everyday demands of Principal ship, does one have the opportunity to visit Primary schools and spend up to three hours viewing and confirming aspects of Special Character, teaching and learning as well as 'Best Practice' in Catholic Primary schools. Far too often as practitioners we slip into our expected role and become isolated and disconnected.

The visits to our ten primary schools were enlightening. The literacy and numeracy programmes being taught are first rate. Again the rare opportunity to meet the Principals, staff and young students at work; to acknowledge the quality work they do in preparing our future Sacred Heart College Students was invaluable. Without doubt the improved relationships and understanding will reap many benefits in future years.

My Primary School Pilgrimage commenced one rainy Monday morning at the outstanding St Joseph's Primary School in Pukekohe and finished five days later with my final visit to St Ignatius School, St Helier's. From solid successful rural Pukekohe to South Auckland and onwards to Central and East Auckland, the quality of teaching and learning underpinned by

Gospel values was evident. The welcoming, friendly tone of each of our Primary Schools and clear evidence of Special Character was a privilege to witness. The future crop of young Marist Men coming to Sacred Heart College is being nourished and nurtured in the Marist Champagnat way.

### **3 EUROPE – ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, FRANCE, ITALY**

**Pilgrimage No. 2** with my wife Ann centred round a number of visits to the very cradle of Marist Education in France.

The focus of our journey to Europe was to explore and experience the origins of the Society of Mary which gave birth to Marist Education as we now know it in New Zealand today. However, prior to our arrival in France, England and Scotland presented us with two unexpected visits to schools at the opposite end of the socio-economic spectrum. One, a private school in Southern England near Eastbourne and the other a regular State school in the Lanarshire Town of East Kilbride.

#### **St Bede's College – South East Sussex, England**

St Bede's is a relatively new private school in the Sussex County, and at scarcely 50 years old is a mere baby of the Education Sector compared to its local opposition Brighton Grammar of 200 plus years.

The Head Master of St Bede's College is a New Zealander, whom I knew as a former colleague and friend. Steve Cole took over this fairly liberal private school almost 7 years ago having completed a highly successful decade as Headmaster at Saint Pauls Collegiate, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Steve's educational philosophy is and has always been conservative. To say that he was shocked by the lack of expected normal standards when he took over as Principal from the founding Headmaster would be an understatement. To quote Steve "After the first two days I was set to go straight back to New Zealand. I could not believe what I had arrived at."

Seven years later the gaps in understanding and tolerance have mellowed. Steve and his wife Jan have created a sense of family at all levels of school life, in all areas of school activity and performance. They are both justifiably proud of their school and the progress they have made. They now both freely agree and admit the key to their success has been adaptation. They carried out a SWOT analysis of where the school was performing 7 years ago and charted a course based upon some critical factors. They quickly acknowledged that they were different to the surrounding Grammar and Private School and set about marketing the school accordingly.

In 2007 they were competing in the top 5 of the Academic League Tables in Sussex and regularly had students challenging for places at Oxford and Cambridge. Perhaps more importantly, depending on your criteria of success, they are regarded as the top school in Performing Arts and Visual Arts. One of their famous parents, Ronnie Corbett of the Two Ronnies fame, helped launch the new Performing Arts Centre a couple of years ago. Consequently students with all sorts and levels of artistic talent are flocking to the school. A real success – why? The school has a unique point of difference and the school has a soul. The moral of St Bede's story is simple; know your strengths, know your opposition, then work tirelessly to put in place a strategic plan which is destined to succeed.

St Bede's College is now a magnet school which attracts students and staff worldwide – our eldest son Jon Dale, formerly a teacher at Wellington College New Zealand, teaches at St Bede's!!

### **Calderglen High School East Kilbride**

Calderglen is a brand new 'Comprehensive' school in Calderwood, East Kilbride. It is the amalgamation of two schools, one of which was underperforming. The local authorities decided, in their wisdom, to blend the two schools together and in doing so committed millions of £'s to establish what is considered to be at the cutting edge of educational property design. Alas, I was not impressed. For all its newness the school was bland and grey. Granted we visited when the school was on summer vacation, however, the absence of human impact, evidence of student work was overwhelming. This new school was still to find its feet. The welding together of two different staffs and student groups will most definitely take time.

For all the money spent on this new structure, there was a distinct absence of community.

The school showed no indication of design, structure nor innovation asked of New Zealand.

Were I to be involved in launching such an enterprise I would most definitely apply the

Maori proverb:

Te Tagata

Te Tagata

Te Tagata

It is about people, people, people.

This visit to Calderglen High confirmed for me again and again that we in our New Zealand Schools are but nothing without quality Staff, teaching highly motivated engaged quality students. And this is where Marist Education has a distinct edge.

#### **4. FRANCE**

The Society of Mary, which is the Mother of Marist Education, was established at Notre Dame de Fourviere, a breathtaking Basilica perched high on the slopes above the city of Lyon.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1816 twelve Marist aspirants, priests and seminarians, climbed the hill to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere. They made a solemn promise to found the Society of Mary under the Corporal while Jean-Claude Courveille celebrated Mass. After Communion they each read out their declaration, promising to devote themselves and all they had to the Foundation of the Society of Mary.

From those simple beginnings almost two hundred years ago was born the Marist Family as we know it today:

- The Marist Brothers
- The Marist Sisters
- The Marist Priests
- (The Marist Lay People)

**The dying wish of a great man, a great human being:**

**“ Love one another. Have one heart, and one mind. May it be said of you, as of the first Christians ..... “See how they love one another !! “**

**“ Always live in God’s presence. Be simple. Make Mary known and loved. Be friends and good examples to the young. Love your vocation and be faithful to it. Jesus and Mary will help you.**

**These are my last wishes.**

**Marcellin Champagnat**

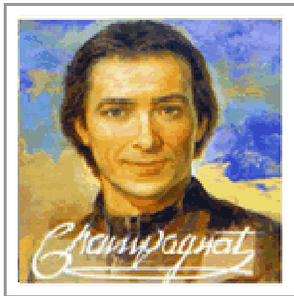
**Given at Our Lady of the Hermitage.**

**18 May, 1840**

Three pivotal characters emerged as a consequence of the pledge at Fourviere:

- Jean Claude Colin – Marist Priests
- Jeanne-Marie Chavoin – Marist Sisters
- St. Marcellin Champagnat – Marist Brothers

Our visit to Fourviere at the start and end of our French Marist Pilgrimage had a profound effect on me. Marists of every generation and from all parts of the world have prayed to Our Lady of Fourviere and many Marist celebrations have taken place either in the Chapel or in the adjoining Basilica. And here was I the new lay Principal of Sacred Heart College, New Zealand, a Marist and Champagnat School, standing in the very same spot, praying the Rosary at St Marcellin Champagnat had done on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1816 – humbling.



**St Marcellin Champagnat**

Fourviere as stated was appropriately the first, and 4 days later, the final part of our French Marist Pilgrimage.

I am sure that there were other influences at play and that our thoughts and actions were being guided in those interim days. By fate and good fortune we managed to achieve in three short days what should have taken us a week and more.

Due to the assistance of the three branches of the Marist Family we were given guided tours of significant sites and locations by:

- Marist Father Henri Cateau
- Marist Sister
- Marist Brother

The opportunity to visit and experience the very beginnings of the Society of Mary, the emergence of the Marist Brothers and Marist Sisters – quite remarkable when you consider that not one of our guides knew that we were coming. In true Marist spirit they stopped what they were doing and set aside 2-4 hours to give us such a special Marist experience – we shall forever be in their debt.



### **Notre Dame de L'Hermitage – what a monument!**

The Hermitage was literally built brick by brick, rock by rock by Champagnat and his men, from the rock face. It is a living legacy to Champagnat and his followers and echoes “the resolute determination of the man, his toughness, his perseverance, his endurance – his strong mind”.

The beautiful surrounding countryside to L'Hermitage reflects the compassion, tenderness and caring which Champagnat had for others in need – his gentle heart. “The property is silent witness to the human qualities of St Marcellin Champagnat”.

La Valla – the small village which contains the house purchased by Champagnat and known as “the cradle” of the Institute.

Ann and I were given a brief tour by one of the Marist Brothers who live in residence at La Valla. We were also able to see the original school which is still in use today and sits adjacent to ‘the cradle’.

Les Maisonettes – the little houses. Ann and I were very fortunate indeed to see inside these primitive small dwellings. Life was very basic and simple for the Brothers.

They made nails, they had some cattle and poultry and they grew some vegetables and crops. They eeked a meagre existence from the land and they never complained. Quite the opposite, they made it their life mission to help the needy, educate the young and to bring Jesus Christ into the lives of their community.

The visit to Les Maisonettes was humbling and a stark reminder of the work and sacrifices of those early Marist Brothers whom St Marcellin recruited.

### **Notre Dame de Fourviere (Chapel of the Black Virgin)**

The Fourviere Basilica dominates the skyline above the City of Lyon. Fourviere is a magnificent and sacred place which honours the Society of Mary and where the pledge was signed by Colin, Chavoïn Champagnat and Perroton.

### **Belley**

The origins of the Marist Sisters. The Marist Sisters Retreat Centre is in Belley.

### **Cerdon**

Again strong links to both the Marist Sisters and Marist Fathers.

The devotion to Our Lady is exceptional in this area.

### **Rome**

Visits to St Peters, the Vatican Museum, the Cistine Chapel and other significant landmarks, the Coliseum, the Trevis Fountain, the Spanish Steps etc. the tourist stuff and must do's on your bucket list. Ann and I had visited Rome in 2001. On this occasion we both gained a greater benefit from the follow-up visit.

**Without doubt, the greatest impact on both Ann and I was during our time in France.**

I now more fully understand and appreciate my mission as Principal of Sacred Heart College.

The future is very bright indeed.

Champagnat started with nothing, but his passion was to make a difference in the lives of young people.

We must all strive to make that difference and all in the way of our Mother Mary.

### **Further Detailed Information**

#### **Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane**

Anglican Church School:      Founded 1912

Year:                              New Entrants - Year 12

School Roll:

Boarding:                        Years 8-12

Principal:                        Mr Jonathan Hensman (former Headmaster Wanganui Collegiate NZ)

#### **Tuition Fees**

Pre school (Reception) to Year 6 -    A\$10,784 per annum

Middle and Senior Years 7-12-        A\$12,855 per annum

Boarding – Years 8-12 -                A\$14,021 per annum

Anglican Church Grammar in Brisbane would rate not only as one of Queensland's and Australia's top private schools for boys but also as one of a very small number of Australian schools, state or private who enrol students from pre-school to High school. Some students

known as 'lifers' spend more than fourteen years at 'Churchie'. The school proudly markets itself on the slogan 'Making of Men'. As you can see the fees are very expensive. Jonathan Hensman the 'Churchie' Principal and I have been friends and colleagues for over fifteen years. We progressed our careers through Boys Education in New Zealand - Jonathan at Mt. Albert Grammar School and Wanganui Collegiate and myself at Palmerston North Boys High School, Kelston Boys High School, Dilworth School, Timaru Boys High School and Westlake Boys High School.

I was therefore very curious to explore and find out best practice in a Christian Boys Grammar School. I interviewed Jonathan and asked him to define some of the leading programmes and initiatives in place at Churchie. There was no epiphany and no surprises. Jonathan stated quite clearly that demand for Churchie was strongly based on traditional values, high standards and high quality, highly qualified staff. There are waiting lists at every year level at Churchie pre-school to Year 12 and even in the Reception Classes.

The annual performance, academic and sporting especially, of Churchie Grammar are published state-wide and nationally. The Queensland/Brisbane Academic League Tables are published in the State Newspapers and on the Queensland Education Department's website. As Jonathan stated, "There is no hiding place and there certainly is transparency.....however the system is flawed."

The Headmaster likened the reporting process similar in some ways to our own N.C.E.A. He stated that students could select 'soft options' and this in turn could skew academic results significantly, College to College and School to School. He also stated that if given a choice he would prefer NCEA because external examinations still existed at Levels 1-4 in NCEA

and were nationwide. Australian State Education was, in his opinion, weak and in many areas flawed.

It is my opinion that after having interviewed Jonathan, we must lobby and continue to press for rigorous demanding examinations and assessment procedures here in New Zealand. The very notion that we might lose Level 1 + Level 2 end of year external examinations appals me as an educator. It is critical that we in Boys schools such as Sacred Heart College generate the political will and educational philosophy to increase and improve the summative assessment standards in external examinations, rather than weaken the standards.

There is no place for mediocrity in boys education and certainly not at Sacred Heart College!!



**Marist Brothers College, Ashgrove, Brisbane**

Marist Ashgrove:	Founded 1940
School Roll:	Years 5-12 & Years 9-18
Full and Day Boarding	Year 5 – 12, 10 – 18 years
Principal:	

2008 Tuition Fees

Junior School – Years 5. 6 + 7	A\$1,010
Middle School – Years 8, 9 + 10	A\$1,255
Senior School – Years 11 + 12	A\$1,420
<u>Full Boarding Fees</u>	A\$ 3,210 per term
	i.e.A\$12,840 per annum

Weekly Boarding Fees

A\$ 2,610 per term

i.e.A\$10,440 per annum

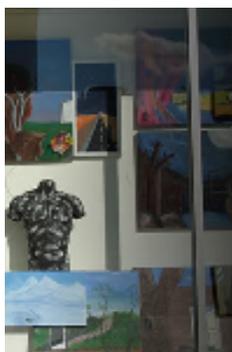
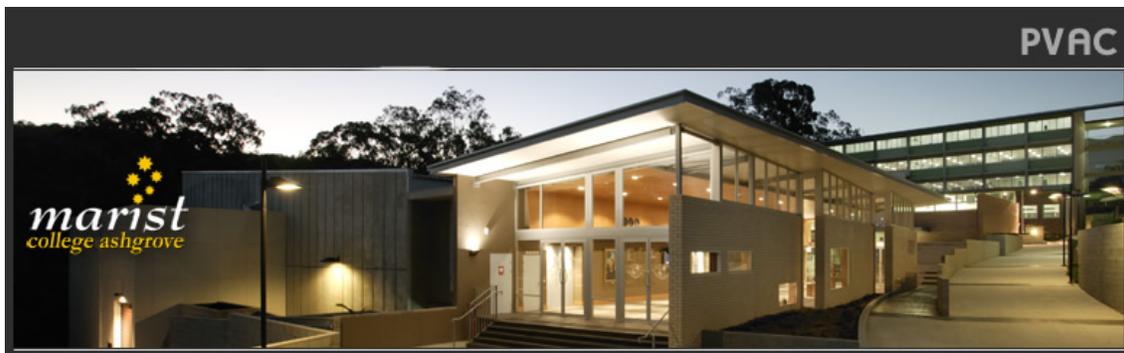
College Building Fund (Tax deductible) – this contribution is A\$400 per family per year.

College Foundation Contribution – this contribution is A\$1,200 per family per year.

NB Some families may be able to assist by offering greater amounts.

Ann and I were very keen to view the new Performing and Visual Arts Centre, which has just recently been completed. The building sits on a slope and the architects have cleverly adopted this dominant feature into the design. Teaching classrooms are both adjacent to and underneath the Main Auditorium.

All the necessary Drama, Music, Performance facilities have been factored in. Although the Performing Arts Centre is a modest looking building from the outside the interior has the WOW factor.



### **Marist College Ashgrove Performing Arts Centre**

The most noticeable feature of the Performing Arts Centre is that it is open for at least 12 hours each day for tuition and learning (7.00am-7.00pm). When we toured the Centre at 8.30, the entire building was alive with teaching and learning practices and auditions – quite outstanding and something which Sacred Heart College MUST strategically plan and achieve no matter the cost. Vouloir C'est Pouvoir must be our catch cry. “Where there is a Will, there is a Way”.

An Old Boy donated A\$3 million to this \$10 million Performing Arts Centre. This contribution is especially dedicated to the School’s Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

**St Josephs College, Hunters Hill, Sydney**



Marist Brothers College	Founded 1881
School Roll	950 – Years 7-12
Full Boarding + Tuition	Years 7-12
Principal (Headmaster)	Mr Ross Tarlinton (former Principal, Marist Canberra)

**Annual Fees**

Boarding and Tuition Years 7-12	A\$26,175
Boarding and Tuition (for boys commencing in Year 11)	A\$26,675
Day Student Fees	A\$18,306 *

\*(includes morning tea, lunch + dinner as well as after hours supervised study till 8.00pm on weeknights).

Boarding & Tuition Fees for International Students Y7-12 A\$35,430

For boys commencing in Year 11 an additional A\$500 is required.

St Josephs College is located in some of Sydney's most affluent real estate and has over 30 acres of prime land overlooking the Parramatta River and the city of Sydney itself.

This was the second occasion that I had visited St Joeys and I was therefore very keen to investigate whether there had been many changes to the College Campus from when I last visited on my Woolf Fisher Scholarship in 2001. In truth nothing much had changed except the Headmaster, Mr Ross Tarlinton, the College's first lay Principal.

The academic reputation of the College is still very strong as is its reputation in Rugby Union. St Josephs College is part of the Sydney Greater Private Schools System (GPS) within which St Joeys competes against seven other major private schools in all areas of Summer and Winter sport.

Imagine if you will an Auckland GPS system consisting of a Super '8':

- Sacred Heart College
- Auckland Grammar School
- Kings College
- Mount Albert Grammar
- Westlake Boys High School
- Kelston Boys High School
- St Kentigern College
- St Peters College or Rosmini College

Like the Sydney GPS summer and winter sport, but then add music, choral and performing arts (theatre sports + chess – worth a thought?)

My focus on this visit was to view the St Joey's Auditorium which had been the catalyst for the development of the W.B.HS. 2000-seater Auditorium. The Joey's Auditorium converts into a Banquet Hall and is the location for major fundraising and functions at the College.

Seven years later the model still stands up to the test of time. It is vital that we build such a structure at Sacred Heart College and in doing so honour the Arts and the artistic talents of our students, staff and old boys. To fail to do so in the next 2-3 years would be such folly and St Marcellin Champagnat would be ashamed of us.

We must make this vision a reality. It can and will happen.

### **Sacred Heart College – Adelaide**

Marist Brothers College	Founded 1897
School Roll	Co-Ed Years 7-12
Boarding and Tuition Boys & Girls Years 7-12	
Principal (new to SHC 2008)	Paul Hine
Annual Tuition Fees	A\$ 5,310 per annum
Years 10 & 11 Composite Fee	A\$ 1,260 per annum
Boarding Fees	A\$12,150 per annum

Discounts are offered:

2 children	12% discount
3 children	20% discount

Sacred Heart College had only just appointed a new Principal 2-3 months prior to our visit. The new Principal succeeded another lay Principal who had given over 15 years' service to the College. The School was now ready for change and an injection of new and sustained energy.

Similar to Marist Ashgrove (Brisbane), St Joey's College (Sydney) and Churchie Grammar (Brisbane), Sacred Heart College was bound by THREE sets of regulations and Government requirement. National, Federal and State.

How fortunate we are in New Zealand. Whether a school is Integrated, State or Private the layers of bureaucracy and regulations are much more manageable than our Australian counterparts. For a decade and more I have personally been a vocal and vociferous opponent of our current centralised reporting requirements to the Ministry of Education and its associated agencies here in New Zealand. Compared to the Australian State Education system we are much more streamlined and responsive to necessary changes in Education.

Currently the frustrations and challenges for Educational Professionals and Governors here in New Zealand mostly exist in the Ministry of Education (M.O.E.) agencies who, at times, are lacking in pragmatic decision-making and effective response times.

In my opinion the following agencies must be made more effective in the next 3-5 years for the benefit of all schools in New Zealand:

- New Zealand Qualifications Authority (N.Z.Q.A.)
- New Zealand Teachers Registration Board (N.Z.T.R.B.)

- Education Review Office (E.R.O.)
- New Zealand Catholic Education Board (Finance and Property)

These improvements would be to the significant advantage of:

- Pre School
- Primary School
- Middle School
- Secondary Schools

Amidst our challenging times in Secondary Education we must turn these challenges into opportunities and particularly in Catholic Education nationwide. For too long the Catholic Education System has been ‘hiding its light under a bushel’.

It is time to stand up, declare our vision, our charisms and publicly celebrate and promote the outstanding work of our students and staff.

As my wise and experienced wife, Ann, has often reminded me – “False modesty is a sin – we must let our children shine”.

### **Conclusion**

The lessons and experiences gained from my Sabbatical were and are many. Concisely and in chronological order:

#### **Australia**

We do not have to be a private school to be successful. Yes, finances and resources are essential ingredients but the quality of staff recruitment, retention and development are even more critical.

We at Sacred Heart College and many other schools in New Zealand are already operating well in advance of our Australian and United Kingdom counterparts.

Money does not create success. It helps.

People create success. Quality teachers teaching a quality curriculum to motivated, high achieving students, no matter the students' level of academic, sporting or cultural ability – **Te Tagata – It is all about people.**

Invest in people and the desired outcomes will be achieved – then celebrate and continue the cycle.

### **New Zealand**

Visits to our feeder schools – priceless! These visits confirmed that our future at Sacred Heart College can be assured. The raw material we receive is of a very high quality in terms of Special Character. The challenge is for SHC and the 10 feeder schools to work together in the Essential Learning Areas for boys:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- I.C.T.
- Religious Education – Values education and Moral education
- Sport and Health
- Language
- Science

**ACTION POINT:** Invite all the feeder Primary Principals and their Syndicate Leaders to meet with our Heads of Faculty and to share best practice in the Key Learning Areas and in Key Competencies for Boys.

Diocesan

Investing in the Arts.

EGGS

Planning for the new curriculum in 2010.

Kings Prep

Preparing boys for THE 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.



Hamilton Boys High School

Targeting and achieving Excellence in and outside the classroom. Celebrating Excellence.

Napier Boys High School

“Doing Boys Stuff” in a Decile 3 School. Aiming high.

St. Johns College

Developing the Marist boy in a low Decile environment.

Palmerston North BHS

Maintaining moral standards in a robust high achieving



School.

Christchurch Boys High School

Managing a dual pathway – NCEA & Cambridge – without compromising people (students & staff) or standards.

St Bede's College

Doing Boys Stuff in a Marist way and creating future “Bedeian Men”.

### **France and Italy**

The Marist Champagnat experience was extraordinary.

Having previously attended the “Sharing Our Call” Conference in Mittagong with Ann the Pilgrimage to Lyon, L’Hermitage La Valla, Les Maisonettes, Belley and Cerdon were inspiring.

The key historical Marist Leaders were exceptional human beings. Their individual and combined Faith was extraordinary. These ordinary Marist people did extraordinary things.

St Marcellin Champagnat Marist Brothers, Jeanne Marie Chavoin (Marist Sisters) and Jean Claude Colin (Marist Priests) created a powerful force against all odds. They should never have succeeded, but they did. And they succeeded in creating the Marist Order because they never entertained doubt nor failure. Their absolute faith was always destined to triumph.

And today around the world in over 70 countries Marist Education continues to flourish. It is now our turn, our time, to take up the challenge. Marist Catholic education stands at the doorstep of radical and significant opportunity. Sacred Heart College must, for the sake of our current students and our future Leaders, lead the way. The road ahead will most certainly be littered with obstacles. No one ever said to St Marcellin that his road would be easy, therefore it is vital that we set our vision state and our goals and lock in our Faith. We can create a wonderful harvest of young Marist Men, who in the next 30-50 years will lead the way in our communities, in our society in New Zealand and the world.

In these perilous days when society is weak, we at Sacred Heart College must be strong. Education is the Key. We must take up this challenge, this opportunity, and devote ourselves selflessly and all in the Marist Champagnat Way – In the way of Mary.

**Confortare Esto Vir**

**James A Dale**

**Principal**

**Sacred Heart College**

**Auckland**

**New Zealand**

**Term 2, 2008**