

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



NEWSLETTER

Number 16
September 22nd 2010

Dear Parents, Students, Staff, and Friends of Marcellin,

Hugh MacKay is perhaps Australia's most renowned and respected social commentator. In exploring the changes in our Australian way of life over the past 30 years he has concluded that the term 'revolution' might better describe the rate and nature of change, than the word 'renovation.'¹ Change has been constant and, in many cases, dramatic. The tendency is to see this as a bad thing, but this is not necessarily so. I do, though, see one negative that has come out of this revolution of change – dramatisation and exaggeration have become the currency of our mindset.

Have you noticed these days that everyone is busy. Even people who aren't busy feel obliged to say they're busy. The stock standard response to the question, "How are you?" is "Busy" - often delivered with a sigh or an exaggerated emphasis. We have this hyped-up sense of constant movement, change and upheaval. And at the other extreme, things are no longer 'good,' or even great – most good things are invariably described as being 'awesome.' The dictionary describes 'awe' as something grand, extreme, or sublime. Most things described as being 'awesome' are much more ordinary than grand, extreme, or sublime!

We live in a culture that tends to dramatise the ordinary. Last Saturday morning I watched a bit of the Today show on Channel 9. The segment of the show that crosses to Hollywood for a report on the gossip from 'tinsel town' is a prime example of our penchant for exaggeration. The most ordinary, even banal events of the lives of the rich and famous are reported in a way that would have us believe that what is happening there is earth shattering, and that it actually matters to the lives of other people like you and me.

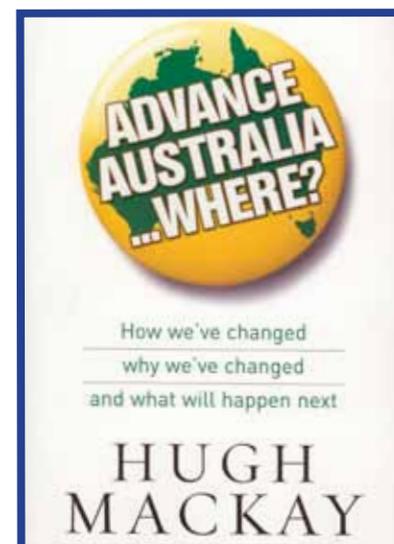
This culture of drama and excess is, though, not just the curious nature of Hollywood or the like. We see it here in our own culture, in our own country, in our own city, and yes, here in Randwick too. I have become increasingly amused, and at times annoyed, with the exaggerated, dramatic ways some boys and parents choose to relate events that happen in their lives, and at school in particular. Only recently I received correspondence from a parent who described an event involving her and her son as being 'extremely distressing,' 'shockingly harmful,' and 'incredibly disappointing.' Unfortunately, I took the letter seriously, only to find out that the description of the incident exaggerated the events that took place. My estimation is that what was an easily explained misunderstanding, and perhaps a miscommunication, should have been more accurately described as 'potentially upsetting,' 'somewhat unsettling,' and 'an unfortunate event.' Instead, it was beaten up into a frenzy as if the event was going to damage people for life when all it was, was one of those regular events in life where a boy does something wrong, should 'cop consequences,' and get on with things.

Fortunately, in my experience at MCR, most boys and parents are like that. But in a culture that tends toward excess, dramatisation and exaggeration we do well to remind ourselves of the potential damage that this creeping mindset can do to the development of boys during the vulnerable period of adolescence. By its very nature the teenage years are about ups and downs, and for some, even many – extremes. What we need to be doing as parents and teachers is tempering the extremes, not adding to them. Equilibrium, calm, balance, and a considered disciplined perspective is what is required – not exaggerated tones that make mountains out of mole hills and aim at deflecting responsibility from ourselves to others.

Let's think twice before we use words like, absolutely, awesome, outraged – and everything else that seeks to express things in the extreme – and choose instead, language that is more realistic, tempered and helpful in establishing equilibrium in this time of cultural revolution.

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall, FMS
Headmaster



¹ Hugh MacKay, *Advance Australia . . . Where?* (Sydney: Hachette Australia, 2007), 7.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all these boys on their Special Achievements. Well done!



Alessandro Palumbo
Donnchadh Considine
Finbar Gallagher
Thomas Scullion
Thomas Thurn

Year 7 students Alessandro Palumbo, Donnchadh Considine, Finbar Gallagher, Thomas Scullion and Thomas Thurn received a Distinction (top 10%) in the UNSW English Writing Competition



Noah Castillo
Curtis Judge
Daniel McDonald
Liam Petersen
Sean Molina

Year 9 students Noah Castillo, Curtis Judge, Daniel McDonald, Liam Petersen and Sean Molina received a Distinction (top 10%) in the UNSW English Writing Competition

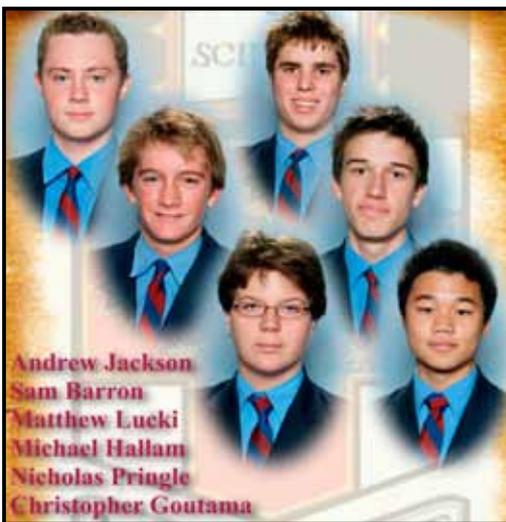


Benjamin Liew,
Year 9
Received a High Distinction
(top 1%) in the
UNSW English Writing Competition



Matthew Makk
Zack Turner
Miguel Vila
Rory McGuinness
Brandon Jurd
Hamish Leadbetter
Giuseppe Guffre

Year 8 students Matthew Makk, Zack Turner, Miguel Vila, Rory McGuinness, Brandon Jurd, Hamish Leadbetter and Giuseppe Guffre received a Distinction (top 10%) in the UNSW English Writing Competition



Andrew Jackson
Sam Barron
Matthew Lucki
Michael Hallam
Nicholas Pringle
Christopher Goutama

Year 10 students Andrew Jackson, Sam Barron, Matthew Lucki, Michael Hallam, Nicholas Pringle and Christopher Goutama received a Distinction (top 10%) in the NSW English Writing Competition



Cameron Wells
Year 8
Received a High Distinction
(top 1%) in the
UNSW English Writing Competition



Madalitso Masache received the Archbishop of Sydney award for Excellence to a Year 12 student who has shown commitment to social justice, academic and sporting areas of school life



The band 'Stone Monks' (Michael Christie, Ignatius Siles, Ryan Whitty, Nicholas Zaharias, Evan Kotsornithis) released their first CD 'Before I Let You Go'.
Top band in the Triple J Unearthed 100!



Fabian Svejkar
Year 9
Received a High Distinction
(top 1%) in the
UNSW English Writing Competition

TERM 3 CALENDAR EVENTS

Thursday 23rd September

- Graduation Day for Year 12 and final day of lessons for Term 3.

Friday 24th September

- Pupil Free Day - Staff Inservice Day.

TERM 4 CALENDAR EVENTS

Monday 11th October

- Term 4 commences.

Thursday 14th October

- HSC commences.

Wednesday 20th October

- Parents in Touch Meeting commences 7.30pm.

Friday 29th October

- Walkathon (refer to back page of newsletter).

MARIST ORATORY

Public Speaking concluded in Term 3 with the annual AMSA Marist Oratory Competition held at Marist College St. Patricks, Dundas. This is a prestigious event involving fourteen Marist schools from NSW. The students are given a range of topics to choose from and are required to write thought provoking and persuasive speeches. This year Marcellin achieved a great deal of success, securing a win in the Year 8 division through Timothy Nichols and coming third in the Aggregate division. The boys spoke with great eloquence befitting their maturity. Considering the depth of talent throughout the competition, they have made a great achievement.

Mr Stephen Davidson, Public Speaking Coordinator



Timothy Nichols

STUDENT EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the following Year 11 students who have been selected by their teacher for their consistent excellent work this semester:

Biology: Alexander Engel, Timothy Lesslie, Montgomery Guilhaus, Jack Rule and Matthew Hall.

Mathematics: Nicholas Ostrovsky, Nicholas D'Agostino, Benjamin Stepkovitch, Daniel Stathis and Brayden Sorge.

Extension English: Kenny Floyd, Daniel Stathis, Robert William, Andy Ng and Elliott Brennan.

Ancient History: Michael Simeone and Joshua Cogin.

PDHPE: Max Smith-Ferguson and Daniel Moore.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees were posted home in late July with a flyer which requested any updated information so that the College can email accounts, receipts, newsletters and other communications. Because these were posted to the account holder some parents may have missed out on receiving this form. If a parent is not the account holder and needs to update their information can they please ring the College on 9398 6355 and a form will be posted out to them. Thank you to the parents who have responded. For those who haven't returned their forms could you please do so as soon as possible. For any outstanding accounts your prompt attention would also be appreciated.

EX-STUDENTS MASS AND LUNCH 2010

The Ex-Students Association held their annual mass and luncheon on Saturday 11th September. The day began with Mass at the College, which was presided over by Fr Max Blumenthal and Fr Tony O'Brien. Special thanks to Mr Anthony Boys, Mr Bill Kostovski and the student choir for their involvement in the Mass. Lunch at the Coogee Bay Hotel followed soon after. The day was attended by well over one hundred 'Old Boys' of the College. The 1950 and 1990 classes had strong representation as they were celebrating milestone reunions. Included amongst the group were Ex-Principals and Captains of the College and a number of Marist Brothers. Association President Mr Michael Daley addressed the group on behalf of the Committee, while Br David and College leaders Matthew Edwards and Michael Bailey spoke on behalf of the College. A great day was had by all, catching up with mates from years past. Special mention and congratulations to ex-student Braith Anasta on his award as Best Captain for 2010. Thanks to the Committee for their organisation of the day, and to all those who attended. We look forward to another great day next year.

Mr Luke MacNamara, Ex-Students' Secretary



Matthew Edwards, Michael Bailey,
Mr Michael Daley and Br Jeff Crowe



NEWS AND SPORT

WALKATHON

This year the Walkathon will be held in Term 4 on Friday 29th October, Week 3. This is our only fundraising event for the year and is an excellent community building event. The effort given by parents, staff and boys in the past has been extraordinary. There have been considerable improvements to College facilities in the past few years because of the generous support of the Marcellin community. From last year's funds raised, we replaced the shade structures in the main yard with permanent awnings to provide students with better protection in wet weather. From past Walkathon funds we purchased the College mini bus. From this year's funds we hope to be able to renovate the seating arrangements in the Vaughan Media Centre to allow for more people. All boys will receive their sponsorship card this week and I would encourage a big effort over the holidays to gain sponsors.

Our aim for 2010 is \$50,000. (Achievable if each boy raises \$55).

All the regular incentive prizes will be explained to the boys and a separate letter will be sent detailing all of these. My hope would be that we can once again raise our target of \$50,000 with a minimum effort of \$55 from each of our students. Thanks in anticipation of another huge community effort for our Walkathon.

WALKATHON RECENT HISTORY

Year	Number Absent	Amount Collected
2002	103	23,000
2003	30	32,000
2004	12	42,700
2005	13	43,300
2006	12	50,652
2007	10	48,088
2008	7	52,651
2009	8	53,500



New permanent awnings



Current seating in the Vaughan Centre

SPORT

Twenty-one boys competed at the NSWCCC Athletics carnival at Homebush. Many boys placed in the first three. Christian Lozada broke a 10 year old U16 400m record in a time of 50.3 seconds and won the U16 110m hurdles. Benjamin Gordon won the U15 100 metre hurdles. Well done to Christian and Benjamin and all the boys who competed. We often highlight the achievements of the boys during school sport and on the weekends, but rarely do we mention staff achievements. I'd like to recognise the efforts of Mr Luke MacNamara who on the weekend competed in the Sydney Marathon over 42 kilometres. He not only survived the run but finished the course with a personal best time of 4 hours and 27 mins.

VOLLEYBALL

Last Thursday our U15s and Opens Volleyball teams competed in the MCC Championships at Homebush. Competing against renowned Volleyball schools we went into the competition as 'underdogs' and came away winning both age groups. For the U15s, this was the first win since the inception of Volleyball in 1982 as a sport in the MCC competition, and for the Opens, they last won the trophy in the first year it was played. I am extremely pleased for both these teams,

witnessing the effort and commitment the boys gave in training at lunch times and after school. Mr Proctor, Opens and Mr Laing, U15s did a terrific job coaching both teams and gave the boys a real belief that they could win. This is the icing on the cake to what has been an outstanding sporting year.

Mr Robert Capizzi, Sport Coordinator



Opens Volleyball



U15 Volleyball

EX-STUDENT EVENTS

30 Year Reunion for 1980 (Year 12) and 1978 (Year 10) - Meet for lunch 12.30pm Saturday 23rd October 2010 Coogee Bay Hotel Function Room. Cost \$45 (buffet lunch). RSVP by 18th October (essential for catering). To book your place, contact Mrs Sharon Elliott at Marcellin office on 9398 6355. Payment by EFT to: (please include your name)

Name: Clinton & Jenny McDonald, BSB: 112 879, A/C: 473237868.

For more details, contact Clinton McDonald clintonm@macbridehinton.com.au or Tony Chu tonycdn@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Uniform Shop: Opening hours Tuesday 8am-11.15am and Thursday 8am-1pm.