

MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



NEWSLETTER

Number 14
August 25th 2010

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

It was a very formal affair here at MCR last Friday. Some fourteen staff donned academic robes for the Semester One Academic Awards Ceremony. At the same event we welcomed Captain Gavin Rudrum from the Australian Defence Forces Academy (ADFA), resplendent in full ceremonial uniform. Life needs formalities. We need occasions when we take some effort to do things with a little more attention, deliberate thought and detail than is the case in everyday life. It somehow helps us step outside the ordinariness of our somewhat regular lives to focus on some of the things that really matter. We're funny creatures: we like a bit of fuss and formality from time to time, but we don't want too much of it. I think we could probably do with a little more formality than we actually take time for.

One place where we did well to lose an overemphasis on formality is in the family setting. Stiff Victorian protocol of centuries past that saw the father of the family being addressed by his children as "Sir," is probably an era best left behind us. But there has emerged an extreme in the other direction that makes me anxious. I get nervous when I hear a parent refer to their son or daughter as their friend. I don't think kids need mothers or fathers who are friends – I think they need, and probably even want, mothers and fathers who are parents!

I am 48 years of age, and my mother is 74. At this stage in our lives there is much about our relationship that resembles that of friendship. But it wasn't always that way. For a great deal of my life, and certainly until I left home, she was just my Mum. And that was enough. She, along with my Dad, set firm boundaries and then watched me succeed, and fail. The words 'no' and 'fail' are an anathema to some people today, and to young people in particular, because some parents don't say 'No' often enough. And then there is the issue of failure. All too often when young people 'slip up' too many parents feel the need to protect them from the consequences. Consequences are a critical part of growing into mature people. There's a fine story about a parent and his son in the Bible that can teach us much about the value and inevitability of consequences – you may know it well – The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). In a nutshell...

A father has two sons...one asks for his share of the inheritance and goes off and squanders it, having a good time doing naughty things...when he's broke he comes begging to his father who forgives him. Is this father stupid or weak? No. The story continues...when the wayward son arrives home the father throws a party...the other son, the diligent and dutiful one who stayed at home and did the right thing refuses to go to join in. Fair enough, it seems ludicrous to reward his brother's bad behaviour. But his father intervenes, and in this intervention there is a most profound insight. The father tells the 'good' son, "all I have is yours, but your brother who was lost is found, so let's celebrate."

All I have is yours. Do you get it? Your brother has received his half of the inheritance, he wasted it, he's not getting any more, he's not getting half of your half – he made a bad choice and now he will have to live with the consequences of his decision. While the father reminds us not to rub the wayward son's nose in his mistake, he insists that we cannot take away the consequences of his choices. It's a hard lesson to learn, and while the father doesn't abandon his son, in that single statement to the other son, 'all I have is yours', he reminds us of the importance of consequences.

We've got to be careful here not to see this as a sanction for a 'sink or swim' attitude. Adults have a responsibility to protect young people from their own potentially destructive devices but we cannot, and must not, live their lives for them. That's why we have rules – to protect young people. And when the rules are broken, we face the consequences. The Bible told us so!

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall, FMS
Headmaster



Michael Bailey and Conor Kelly receiving their ADFA Education Awards from Br David and ADFA Officer Captain Gavin Rudrum

FROM THE HEADMASTER

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

HEADMASTER'S ASSEMBLY - SEMESTER 1 ACADEMIC AWARDS

Congratulations to the students who received academic awards at Friday's Headmaster's Assembly.



Year 7 students Thomas Thurn, Declan White, Jarrad Largent, Michael Harbutt, Alexander Georges, Phillip Chu and Lucas Bollard received their Distinction certificates in the UNSW Science competition



Scott Rogers, Year 10 received his Bronze award for the Duke of Edinburgh program



Year 10 students Elvin Wong, Corey Vutukuri, Christian Said, Christopher Goutama, Gino Conte, James Chowdhury and Jake Bennett received their Computer Skills Distinction certificates from the UNSW



Year 9 students Matthew Waller, Justin Richardson, Patrick Dunn, Oscar Callaghan and Benjamin Liew received their Distinction certificates in the UNSW Science competition



Rory McGuinness Year 8 and Daniel Brito Year 7 received their High Distinction certificates in the UNSW Science competition



Year 8 students Cameron Wells, Matthew Kelly, Miguel Vila and Claudio Fabiano received their Distinction certificates in the UNSW Science competition



Conor Kelly with his parents Mrs Maria Kelly and Captain Simon Kelly



Joel Bailey, Colonel Brian Bailey, Michael Bailey and Mrs Catherine Bailey



Year 10 students Dominic Gibbs and Benjamin Westover received their Distinction certificates in the UNSW Science competition

TERM 3 CALENDAR EVENTS

Wednesday 25th August

- Year 12 HSC Music Showcase 6pm-7.30pm. Free entry.

Thursday 26th August

- MCC Athletics Carnival.

Friday 27th August

- Mufti day supporting Mary Mackillop Canonisation.

Thursday 2nd September

- College Sports Photo day.

Friday 3rd September

- Headmaster's Assembly including the Winter MCC Sports Presentations.

Thursday 9th September

- Year 11 Preliminary Exams commence. Conclude Friday 17th September.

Saturday 11th September

- Ex-Students Mass and Lunch (refer to back page of newsletter for more details).

Monday 13th September

- Year 10 Trial Exams commence. Conclude Friday 17th September.

NOTICES AND NEWS

YEAR 11 MINISTRY WEEK

Leading up to the Sunday I was to depart to Bowraville, I asked myself why Marcellin College, which put such a significant emphasis on attendance and the reduction of lateness, was allowing the whole of Year 11 to spend a week serving others. It wasn't until I arrived at St Mary's Primary School Bowraville, armed with a SmartBoard funded by the our College's Lenten Appeal, that I realised the advantage of this unique opportunity, taking students out of the stressed and structured routine of school and placing them in life changing experiences. I realized after listening to the story of a little girl in Year 4 that I had taken a lot more out of this school than they had received from me. The Marist Brothers place a high value on the importance of presence, and by listening to her story, I was able to reflect on my own life, rid myself of trivial troubles, gain another perspective of my own situation and realize what I was truly there for. Against the talking and yelling of a kindergarten class, I watched as a teacher questioned a young boy as to why he was so excited and discovered that the boy, along with his nine other siblings and two parents, had just moved out of their trailer which had no running water and only three beds into their recently restored home on the mission. Br David trusts that when Year 11 step outside of their comfort zone, ready to listen, that these stories we hear are beneficial for our personal development. By allowing seniors to reflect upon their own actions in times of service, it not only highlights the calibre of students that Marcellin creates, but the spirit our College generates in the community. *Jackson Garlick, Year 11 student*



Jackson Garlick in Bowraville



Ministry Week in Sydney



Ministry Week in Mittagong



Jay Barron in Sydney

YEAR 7 CAMP

The journey to Somerset took one and a half hours. After a pep talk from the head camp instructor, activities commenced. Half of the year hiked to a campsite a distance from base camp whilst the other half stayed back to set up their tents. My group went straight to the obstacle course. A very muddy hour later we went to our next activity, low ropes, followed by the flying fox. Here we showed great teamwork as we encouraged each other to keep going. Day two was canoeing. After an hour of paddling against the current, we had lunch, a short trek, and archery. Some of us stood out from the rest but there were no Robin Hoods in our midst. The following day we decked out in our army camouflage gear for a notorious game of stealth. All of us came out with very dirty faces! *Finbar Gallagher, Year 7 student*



Preparing dinner



Benjamin O'Sullivan and Jordan Panov



Pitching a tent



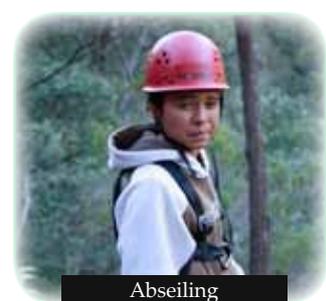
Canoeing

YEAR 9 CAMP

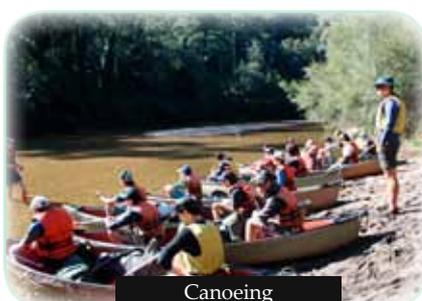
I was feeling nervous but had that feeling of excitement for what we were going to encounter for the next five days. On arrival at camp we met our nine camp groups and leaders who were going to assist and support us through our days at camp. The camp was very beneficial in learning skills that I would have never learnt otherwise and something I can carry on through my life, these skills include preparing and cooking meals. *Reuben Taucher, Year 9 student*

The Somerset camp was a challenging but enjoyable experience. We learnt a little more about who we were. It helped put things in perspective, realise how lucky we are and the importance of things we take for granted. *Luke Dooner, Year 9 student*

We were challenged with hiking across rugged yet lush terrain, canoeing for kilometres across the windswept waters, abseiling down steep rock faces, and cooking our own meals. We have accomplished and matured as a year group and have forged new friendships and strengthened those we already possess. *Matthew Waller, Year 9 student*



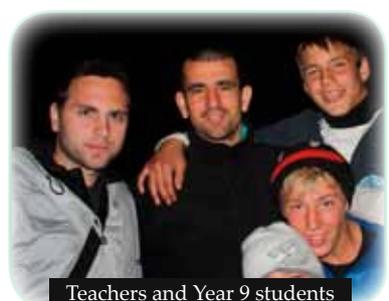
Abseiling



Canoeing



Year 9 students at camp



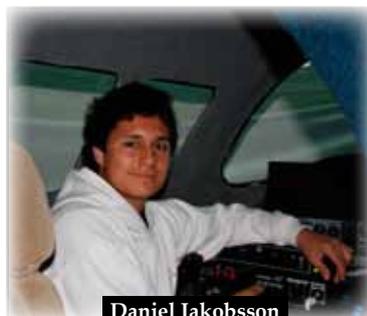
Teachers and Year 9 students

NEWS AND SPORT

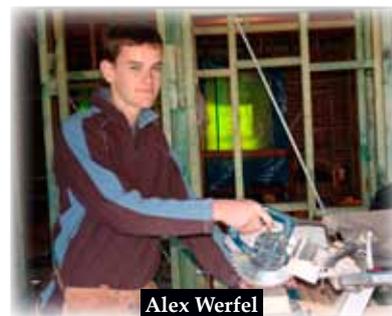
YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

From Monday 9th August to Friday 13th August, Year 10 students visited an extensive range of work experience sites, from real estate agents, banks, builders, plumbers, restaurants, aviation, auto repair shops, gyms, electronics and IT, libraries and supermarkets. The students had a chance to experience their chosen field for a week. Year 10 will have another work experience opportunity from 22nd to 26th November.

Mr Robert Sheens, Careers Coordinator



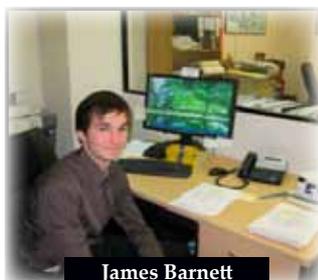
Daniel Jakobsson



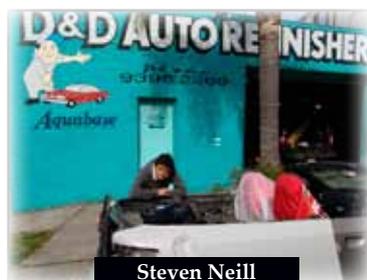
Alex Werfel



Cody Teixeira



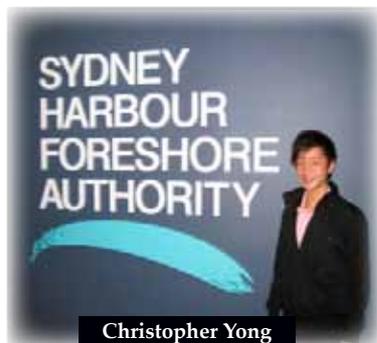
James Barnett



Steven Neill



Jason Wheelhouse



Christopher Yong



James Chowdhury



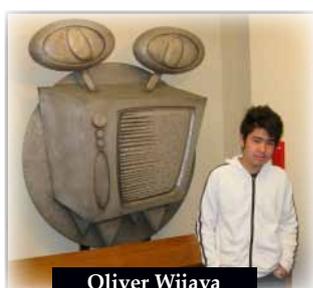
Jack Unicomb Laird



Thomas Hay



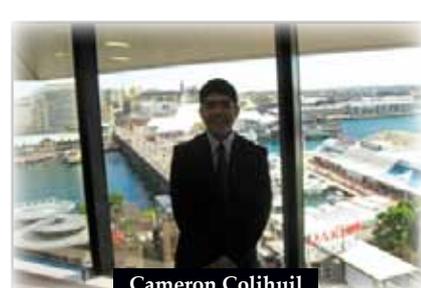
George Matouk



Oliver Wijaya



Garison Padma



Cameron Colihuil

MCC ATHLETICS

The Athletics Carnival is on this Thursday 26th August at Sydney Olympic Park Homebush from 9 am at the warm up arena. We wish the boys the best of luck in their competition. Parents are most welcome to attend and show their support.

SPORTS PHOTO DAY - THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER - ALL MCC TEAMS

MCC sports photos will be taken on Thursday 2nd September. Boys are asked to check the sports notice board for details. Those boys who have represented at a higher level this year are to have individual photos taken after their team photo. All boys in the photos must have the correct team uniform. Boys without the correct uniform will not be in the photo.

Mr Robert Capizzi, Sport Coordinator

EX-STUDENTS MASS AND LUNCH 2010

The Marcellin Ex-Students Annual Mass and Lunch this year will be held on Saturday 11th September. Mass commences at 11am at the College with lunch to follow at the Coogee Bay Hotel Function Room. The cost is \$60. To RSVP please contact Mrs Sharon Elliot on 9398 6355 or email: elliots@marcellin.nsw.edu.au

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Raising Resilient Teens: This seminar will help you negotiate with your teenagers in a positive way and to set appropriate boundaries that are able to work within your family structure. 23rd September at Mill Hill Centre, Bondi Junction from 6.30pm-8.30pm. \$15 per person. RSVP Catholic Care 9519 6788.