

# MARCELLIN COLLEGE RANDWICK



## EX-STUDENTS NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Friends of Marcellin College,

There are many factors that contribute to making a good school, and there is also significant debate within and beyond the education sector about what it is that makes one school seem better than another. For many years I have been involved in the review and development of schools and have contributed to the detailed and elaborate processes that assess school effectiveness and then devise strategic plans that aim at improvement and development. There is an emerging view among educational leaders that there has been too much time and effort put into review and development and not enough time afforded to just 'getting the job done.' In our more cynical moments my colleagues in educational leadership sometimes suggest that we should ditch the elaborate processes and decide on whether a school is effective simply by looking at enrolment statistics: if people want to come, then the school is successful. And the more people that want to come, the greater the success.

If this were to be our benchmark then Marcellin is on a winner. We have 172 confirmed enrolments for Year 7 in 2011, chosen from 270 applicants. And it's not that the 98 unsuccessful applicants weren't suitable – there just isn't room. For many people, MCR is getting it right.

What are we getting right? In May, and then again in August this year I held evenings for parents titled *A Conversation with the Headmaster*. The written and spoken responses from the more than 150 parents who attended these evenings have been collated into eight themes – listed below are summary statements from four of these areas:

**Learning Culture** - Marcellin's learning culture is viewed by members of the College community as being very strong and clearly identifiable. There is a sense that Marcellin provides an environment that fosters in staff and boys a love of learning.

**Discipline** - The maintenance of an ordered and disciplined environment was a common response from parents. This theme of discipline attracted the most views. Marcellin boys are proud of their school and parents view a clearly understood discipline structure that is well articulated to all as essential in maintaining their pride.

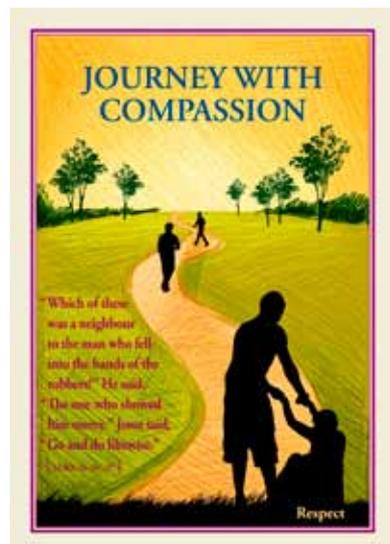
**Values Education** - Christian values are an integral part of the approach to teaching and learning at Marcellin. There is an explicit teaching of these values across the school with themes developed to enhance this.

**Broader Learning** - The provision of an array of learning opportunities outside the classroom that suit the needs of the boys is seen as vital to helping them fulfil their potential. Many respondents are keen to see their sons continue to engage in learning opportunities that broaden their horizons.

You can access the comprehensive documentation that expands on all of this material on the Headmaster's page of the College website: [www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au). In the coming months we will be using this material as the basis of our conversations with staff, students, parents, and the wider Catholic education community to set our goals for 2011-2015. One thing is for sure - with so many pluses on our side the future is looking pretty bright at MCR.

With my best wishes,

Br David Hall, fms  
Headmaster



# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

In the 2009 Higher School Certificate

- ★ Marcellin College was ranked 98th in the State (2005 - 74th, 2006 - 108th, 2007 - 78th, 2008 - 101st).
- ★ Top UAI - 99.40 (2005 - 100, 2006 - 97.15, 2007 - 99.55, 2008 - 99.90).
- ★ 28 students with a UAI over 90.
- ★ 362 Band 5 & 6 results.
- ★ 25 of 29 courses above State average.
- ★ 27 of 29 courses above State average across top 3 bands.
- ★ 21 courses where a Band 6 result was achieved by one or more students.

### Percentage of students who gained a Band 4, 5 or 6 in subjects

(The top 12 subjects are listed)

HSC Subjects	Bands 4,5,6 School % of students	Bands 4,5,6 State % of students	School vs State % Difference
Economics	100	71.46	+28.54%
English Extension 1	99.99	99.00	+0.99%
English Extension 2	99.99	97.35	+2.64%
History Extension	99.99	94.98	+5.01%
Mathematics Extension 1	100	96.69	+3.31%
Mathematics Extension 2	100	97.94	+2.06%
Modern History	100	77.84	+22.16%
Music 1	100	87.13	+12.87%
Music 2	100	96.71	+3.29%
Physics	99.94	68.33	+31.61%
VET Construction Examination	100	42.09	+57.91%
Visual Arts	92.29	90.14	+2.15%

### HSC COMPARISONS OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total Band 5 & 6	171	285	240	332	276	362
Subjects above State average	12	22	18	21	19	25
Subjects below State average	14	5	9	6	9	4

## SCHOOL CERTIFICATE RESULTS

### All subjects above State average

The students achieved excellent results in the 2009 School Certificate Examinations. There were State examinations in English literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History, Australian Geography and Computing Skills.

Students were graded in these external examinations based on their results. In each of the six subjects tested, Marcellin College students' results were in the higher bands in greater proportions than those achieved by all students across the State. The following chart outlines the percentage difference between the number of students achieving results in the top 3 bands at Marcellin College and in the State.

SC Subjects	School Average	State Average	School V State % Difference
English	94.07	82.09	+11.98%
Mathematics	72.36	49.10	+23.26%
Science	88.80	70.35	+18.45%
History	71.10	58.44	+12.66%
Geography	84.85	58.67	+26.18%
Computing	72.36	61.91	+10.45%

# EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE

## FAREWELL BR BILL SULLIVAN, WELCOME BR DAVID HALL

A parents' cocktail evening and a farewell assembly were held for Br Bill Sullivan in March to commemorate the many highlights of his eight years at the College. At the conclusion of the assembly the College formed a guard of honour for him.



On 30th April, a Headmaster Commissioning Assembly was held for Br David Hall. Br David was anointed and given a special blessing as he commenced his leadership of the College.

## ANZAC DAY CEREMONY - Friday 23rd April



## CHAMPAGNAT DAY - Friday 11th June



'Now is the time' was the theme for our Champagnat Mass. We were joined by many of the Brothers from our community and Br Michael Callinan from the Ministries Office. The Mass was presided by Fr Peter Hearn and was a moving celebration of our Marist Charism. Some of the proceeds from the College's Lenten collection were presented to Br Michael on behalf of Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity. The remainder of the collections will be forwarded to Caritas and to the Society of St Vincent de Paul to sustain their excellent programs.



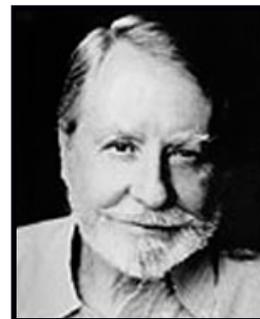
## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION



Congratulations to our Years 9, 10 and 12 Debating teams who made it through to the semi-finals and Year 12 Debating team who were Champions in the CSDA Debating competition.

## FAREWELL JON CLEARY

Mr Jon Cleary attended Marcellin College from 1924-1932 and had the honour of being our oldest living ex-student up to his death on Sunday 17th July 2010. A famous Australian author whose career extended over 60 years, having written 50 novels, with 8 million copies sold and many made into films. Some of his works include: 'The High Commissioner', 'You Can't See Round Corners', 'Sundowners' and 'Pride's Harvest'. A quote from the Weekend Australian describes Jon's novels as occasionally touching "psychological, social and moral dilemmas inside the frame of high adventure". Jon is remembered in our College Hall of Fame. Please remember Jon and his family in your prayers.



## COLLEGE IMPROVEMENTS IN 2009/2010

New drainage capacity improved outside the TAS wing and rooms 11-14  
New awning to be installed outside the TAS wing to provide protection from rain

Laptop computers placed in 5 more classrooms

Smartboard installed in the Library classroom

Security camera and alarms in 12 more rooms

Wireless access across the College now complete

50 new lockers installed

Data projectors installed in 5 more classrooms

Windows are soon to be replaced in the Admin wing

New tables installed in 3 classrooms



# SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS 2010



**AGGREGATE SWIM SQUAD**



**JUVENILE SWIM SQUAD**



**JUNIOR SWIM SQUAD**

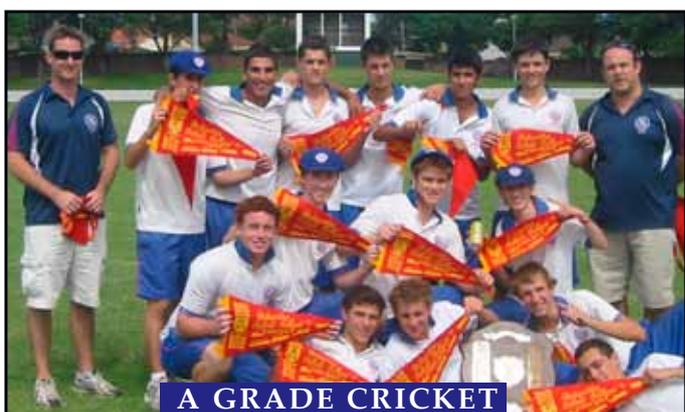


**RUGBY LEAGUE PREMIERS 2010**

- ## 2010 MCC CHAMPIONS
- Swimming - Juvenile, Junior, Senior and Aggregate Champions
  - A Grade Basketball
  - Cricket - Under 14 and A Grade
  - Touch Football - Under 14, Under 15, A Grade and Aggregate Champions
  - Cross Country Squad - 6 years in a row!
  - Rugby League - Under 13 Div 1, Under 13 Div 2A, Under 14, Under 15, A Grade, B Grade and Aggregate
  - Golf Champions - 4 years in a row!
  - MCC Aggregate Basketball Champions
  - MCC Aggregate Cricket Champions
  - MCC Aggregate Touch Football Champions
  - Athletics - Juvenile, Junior, Senior and Aggregate Champions



**A GRADE BASKETBALL**



**A GRADE CRICKET**



**U14 CRICKET**



**CROSS COUNTRY**



**A GRADE TOUCH FOOTBALL**



**GOLF CHAMPIONS**