

# Spirit OF THE STAR

LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER, DISTRICT OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## IF NOT YOU, WHO? WHO?

## WHO?

**WHAT ARE  
YOU PREPARED  
TO DO THIS  
YEAR TO  
HELP?**

**Recently I came across these words**

written by the American author Parker Palmer, "Our culture's fearful obsession with results has sometimes, ironically, led us to abandon great objectives and settle for trivial and mediocre ends. The reason is simple. As long as "effectiveness" is the ultimate standard by which we judge our actions. We will only act towards ends which we are sure we can achieve." The National Camp Lasalle, held at Kincumber at the start of the year, is just one example of a group of young people not settling for "mediocre ends". It was truly an experience of faith, service and community for all present. Specifically for the leaders present it involved a sacrifice but with this sacrifice came the

opportunity for them to be "big brothers" and "big sisters" to the "campers". At the moment a small group of committed people in our District of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are making a difference. What are you prepared to do this year to help them? As you read through the articles in this issue of Spirit of the Star you might see something that grabs your attention, if you do let us know. As Lasallians we are called to be people of faith. It is our relationship with God that strengthens this faith. Like any relationship we need to give time to it. It is good to spend time each day reflecting on our actions in the light of the Gospel. **When we live our lives aware of God's presence we will not settle for mediocre ends but will be bold in the goals we set ourselves.**

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

## NEW ZEALAND NEWS

For three days during March the Lasallian schools of New Zealand came together at John Paul College in Rotorua for the annual College Leaders gathering. The objective of the weekend away was to build upon the success of the wider Lasallian network in New Zealand. The gathering involved over 40 leaders from Francis Douglas Memorial College in New Plymouth, De La Salle Mangere from Auckland, and hosts John Paul College, Rotorua. The weekend was facilitated by **Br. Mark McKeon, Br. Tony Cummins,** and **Veronica Fouhy,** Youth Minister at Francis Douglas Memorial College. Recognising that our College Prefects have a huge role as leaders, the weekend was a time where the students could evaluate the year ahead with like-minded others, discussing different styles of leadership, developing their ideas for their schools and coming to grips with the concept of how big the Lasallian community in New Zealand really is. "As Lasallians we need to pray that we may have the eyes of faith to see Jesus in each person we meet". This theme was developed during the weekend with the students encouraged to make authentic connections to their world through leadership. It was wonderful to see such enthusiastic young Lasallians work together to get the best out of themselves and their school communities.



## MELBOURNE NEWS

2006 is shaping up to be another great year for La Salle Melbourne. Friday Night Games have kicked off - and expanded to Sacred Heart Parish Oakleigh, a Fish La Salle trip has hit the water at Rye, and as Spirit of the Star is going to print the Easter Experience Retreat at St Bede's College is in full swing. The Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Oakleigh approached La Salle to bring Friday Night Games to the local school and so far **Craig Almeida** and his team have run one successful night with another soon to follow. Eventually the Sacred Heart young people will take over the organisation of these games retreat promises to be our biggest yet, with some new additions to the program including a visit to an inner city Melbourne social justice agency and the annual Good Friday sleep out. The retreat is centred in the Easter liturgies, and provides a back to basic approach to retreats for young people. Lasallian Youth Leaders have returned to De La Salle Malvern to work alongside Lasallian Youth Minister, **Tom McIlroy,** after being established in 2005, and the LYL's plan to get involved in Friday Night Games and the Camp La Salle Winter Adventure in June at Phillip Island. The Youth Leaders will also take on various service projects during the year and help further develop the Lasallian ethos of De La Salle Malvern.



## SYDNEY NEWS

Recently one Friday night in Sydney 140 Lasallians gathered for the first "Lasalle ConneXion". It was a night of fun and a variety of activities entertained the large group of Year 7 and 8 students who participated. Lasalle ConneXion is an initiative of the Lasallian Youth Ministry group that meets regularly in Sydney. The actual planning for the night was the product of a joint effort by **Darren Perrett, James Camden,** both recently employed as part-time Lasallian Youth Ministers, and **Renee Thurston,** a former student of Oakhill College Castle Hill. They were ably supported on the night by a good number of Lasallian Youth Leaders from the Sydney schools and some teachers from La Salle Bankstown.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA NEWS

Early in July, leaders from the four Lasallian schools in the National Capital District and Central Province will gather for a Leadership Seminar. It will be an opportunity to share ideas and learn more about what it means to be Lasallian. The Lasallian group is already a major force behind the **Youth Against Corruption** movement in Papua New Guinea. It is hoped that an outcome of the seminar will be the drawing up of a strategic plan to ensure the development of Lasallian Youth Ministry.

## QUEENSLAND NEWS

The Lasallian Youth Ministry team in Queensland is in a unique position of having only one school from which to launch its activities. Southern Cross Catholic College Scarborough is located approximately 35 kilometres from Brisbane. Though the group is small in number it is big in vision. This year they are planning a **Fish Lasalle Trip** and **Camp Lasalle.** In recent years the school has developed a strong group of Lasallian Youth Leaders.



# LASALLIAN LEADERS SEMINAR

Once again this year school leaders from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea attended the Lasallian Leaders Seminar hosted by the Lasallian Youth Ministry Team during January. On a very warm Monday afternoon 51 school leaders boarded a coach for the ninety minute drive up the F3. The cool of the coach was a welcome relief for the Kiwis who had just arrived from across the ditch.

The 2006 Seminar was held for the first time at La Salle Youth Camp, Kincumber, on Sydney's Central Coast. The Lasallian Youth Ministry Team were on hand for the first event of the year to help guide, support and lend their experience and expertise to the Pacific region's Lasallian school leaders. The Lasallian themes of faith, service and community were interwoven into the various presentations.

For many of these leaders it is a daunting task to spend a week with a group of people from three different countries that

they have never met before. However, in true Lasallian spirit leaders found themselves mixing well and becoming more aware of their common Lasallian links. Communication skills in this year's leaders were clearly very strong. This was particularly evident on the final night when Lasalle Idol took place.

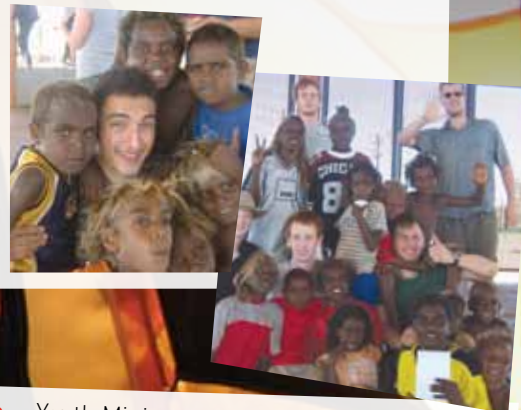
The Lasallian Leaders Seminar was not just an opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge in regards to leadership; it was an occasion to discover the fact that there are 50 or so other students, your age that share the same pride in being Lasallian. What I found particularly overwhelming was that there was more than just one school in the world that was full of passionate students; there was in fact an entire community of them in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea all under the name of Saint John Baptist De La Salle. (Jamie Barrett, Francis Douglas Memorial College).



**Balgo Hills (aka Wirrimanu) is an isolated aboriginal community in Western Australia.** During January this year two groups of volunteers provided summer camp programs for the kids of the local community. The volunteers hosted a variety of activities in the morning and in the evening. It was obvious that the aboriginal kids appreciated the attention they were given. This was evident in the way they would come down to the houses where we were staying urging us to come up to the basketball court. The smiles on the faces of the kids were all the encouragement we needed to make our way up to the basketball court. While the focus of our time there was on the

aboriginal kids it was also a chance to work alongside Lasallians from other places. It was also an opportunity to experience life in the desert and aspects of aboriginal culture. The trip to Balgo takes patience and endurance. It involves a ten hour road trip from Alice Springs along mostly dirt roads. Most days we were there the daytime temperature was 45 degrees. It only took two days to get used to the heat. Fortunately the accommodation where we stayed was air conditioned. While we spent most of our time with the kids we also ensured that the school grounds looked tidy by mowing around the grounds and collecting rubbish. **It truly was the experience of a life time. Applications for this year's summer camps close June 30.**

# BALGO HILLS SUMMER CAMPS



# CAMP LA SALLE NATIONAL

**Camp La Salle has long been the crown jewel of Lasallian Youth Ministry** in Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and New South Wales. January 2006 finally saw the inaugural Camp La Salle National take place. This was held at La Salle Youth Camp, Kincumber on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

New South Wales and Victoria teamed up to bring an action packed program of 6 days to 40 young people. Despite the long trip for the Melbourne group, the newly renovated La Salle Youth Camp provided the perfect location for an exciting camp featuring sporting activities and games, iron man contests, bike riding, bushwalking, canoeing and much more. The Central Coast bushfires were contained just in time not to disrupt the proceedings and the weather was mostly fine and hot enough for plenty of time on the water and a trip to the beach.

On the final night of the program the two states broke into their separate groups to plan strategies for another great year of

Youth Ministry with events such as Friday Night Games and La Salle Connection, as well as Fish La Salle and local Camp La Salle programs. Before hitting the road to come home, the Melbourne group enjoyed the sights of Sydney including the Harbour Bridge and Manly, stayed the night at Oakhill College and despite some mechanical problems made it home safely the next day.

The program was put together by La Salle powerhouse **Mark Farrell** from Melbourne and supported by Sydney strongman **Peter Haynes** who both ensured the Camp looked like an effortless production for all the young people present.

Camp La Salle National will be repeated next year, same time and same place, but with an even larger group with hopefully some representation from South Australia and Queensland.

**The challenge is set to school leaders, former students and friends to make sure you get involved!**



## CONTACT DETAILS

### DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS & YOUTH MINISTRY

**Br Mark McKeon fsc**

PO Box 3485

BANKSTOWN SQUARE NSW 2200

markmckeon@delasalle.org.au

Tel: (02) 97956412

Mobile: 0412853573

### LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTERS

**James Camden**

jc Camden@oakhill.nsw.edu.au

Mobile: 0421642288

**Darren Perrett**

darren\_kp@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0401568107

**Tom McIlroy**

tmcilroy@delasalle.melb.catholic.edu.au

Mobile: 0418314199

### WEBSITES

[www.lasallianyouthministry.org](http://www.lasallianyouthministry.org)

[www.lasallemelbourne.org](http://www.lasallemelbourne.org)

[www.camplasalle.xparte.com](http://www.camplasalle.xparte.com)

[www.bialasalle.com](http://www.bialasalle.com)