

# Spirit OF THE STAR

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

## IT'S YOUR CALL

EACH YEAR, IN EARLY AUGUST, IT'S NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK.



NEVER

THINK YOU ARE ALONE IN DECIDING YOUR FUTURE



It is a specific time set aside to reflect on what we are called to do with our lives. Put simply, we are called to discover our individual gifts and work out how we will use these gifts in serving others. What follows is an article that appeared in a Sydney Catholic paper.

"It is hard to remember why I joined the De La Salle Brothers", says Br Mark McKeon, Director of the Vocations and Youth Ministry for the De La Salle Brothers in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. "The Brothers who taught me obviously made an impact, but at the time I think it was more the idea of a sense of adventure that influenced me to give the Brothers a go".

The decision to "give it a go" made over twenty years ago, has seen Br Mark engaged in a variety of teaching and leadership roles in Australia and New Zealand. "Each of these experiences has brought challenges and joys. What these experiences have taught me is to listen to what

the presence of God in my life is saying to me", he said.

"In my contact with young people in school and post school ministry I find that they are searching for an adventure and a sense of purpose in life. I believe that the life of a Brother offers both these".

"The life of a Brother is primarily about deepening our relationship with God. This relationship then gives life to all other relationships. I enjoy the opportunity to share this message of relationships with young people".

I believe the basic call we each have is to be in relationship with our God and each other. We are not called to live in isolation but to support, encourage and sustain each other. Pope John Paul had the following to say about vocations. "In the first place, you must never think that you are alone in deciding your future! And second: When deciding your future, you must not decide for yourself alone."

**Take time to LISTEN and then consider whether what you are thinking of doing is worth devoting your life to.**



# LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTERS ON THE GO!

**DARREN PERRETT** WORKS AS A LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER AT LASALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE BANKSTOWN NSW

My job as the Lasallian Youth Minister at LaSalle Catholic College Bankstown has been full of surprises. The year started off well and we have had



many successful moments over the first three terms of my appointment. Personal highlights are numerous and the ups seem to be more frequent than the downs. I often reflect upon my job and think to myself how lucky I am to work at LaSalle Bankstown.

This year I have been working with Brother David Miller. He has extensive experience in the area of Youth Ministry. Lasallian Youth Leaders (LYL) are now into their fifth year of operation at the school. LYLs are well known around the school and are involved in many different projects from running prayer in the Brothers Chapel most Fridays at lunch,

to running sport for 50 Year 7 students at Clancy Catholic College, a new Catholic secondary school in West Hoxton Park.

I also enjoy working with a committed group of Years 9 and 10 students who make up the Lasallian Youth for Justice group in the school. They are increasingly learning more about social justice in Australia and the world and are planning on gaining knowledge about indigenous social justice issues in the hope of going to Balgo Hills, Western Australia next year for a visit to the Brothers' school there.

Within my job I also have run prayer classes for Year 7 and 8 students. I also work alongside students to prepare class liturgies as well as Year level masses. Recently I teamed up with Brother Mark McKeon and Year 11 LYLs to run Year 8 retreats.

The more I get to know the students the more I feel I am able to invite them to become involved in a variety of activities. To me, forming relationships is an important part of being Lasallian. My job is a joy and a gift. I am inspired each day. It could be the people I work with, the Brothers or the students. I'm inspired everyday to do more, to help more, to serve more.

**TOM MCILROY, LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER AT DE LA SALLE COLLEGE MALVERN VICTORIA**

I would have never imagined three years ago as I completed Year 12 at De La Salle Malvern that I would be back so quickly working as part of the Lasallian Vocations and Youth Ministry team. My job so far has been exciting and challenging – but most of all rewarding as I have the chance to interact with students who are the same as I was a few years ago. My role includes all aspects of Youth Ministry and Lasallian heritage at school as well as supporting La Salle Melbourne, the former students' network which runs Camp La Salle, Fish La Salle and other regular events. Some people don't understand what our team does so I always explain it as giving current and former students the chance to live the Lasallian way in their every day lives through leadership, social justice, religion and social events. Every so often, in an obvious or subtle way, a student will tell you that they appreciate their school and their mates, and that you have contributed to their life. I love walking through the playground and catching up with students who have become my friends – and who can depend on me for support or for a laugh when they need it. It is a real privilege for me to be able to do this work and be involved with the Brothers. The world is much bigger than any school, but in order to change it we have to start at home just like St John Baptist de La Salle.



**JAMES CAMDEN LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTER AT OAKHILL COLLEGE CASTLE HILL NSW**

Youth ministry is certainly not a simple task and in six months the Faith in Action Department at Oakhill College has facilitated retreats and reflection days for every Year level at the College.

For those who've never been involved in creating and facilitating youth ministry it is hard to comprehend the weeks of preparation that go into designing each program soon to be unleashed on sometimes the toughest audience. The most rewarding part and the most obvious sign of success however, is the relationships that we build with young people within the College as the year progresses. With almost 250 senior students at Oakhill involved as Lasallian Youth Leaders assisting retreats, reflection days, fundraising, liturgies, masses, peer programs, the College Homework Centre and Year 7 and 8 class visits there is a great sense that Lasallian Youth Ministry is alive and well in Castle Hill. This is something that makes me very proud to be employed in the position I am in. What is also very promising is the involvement of College ex-students in Twilight Retreats, Lasalle ConneXion, the Balgo Summer Camp, Camp Lasalle and Share the Mission in which two Oakhill Old-Boys are currently serving placements in Boystown Queensland, and Mangere New Zealand. My greatest hope for our departing senior students, not only at Oakhill but in all the Lasallian schools is that they continue serving in their faith and Lasallian tradition in some of the works we have to offer over 2006/07.



# FISH LASALLE LAUNCHES IN THE SUNSHINE STATE



## QUEENSLAND'S FIRST FISH LASALLE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS...

Sixteen participants and six leaders set off on Saturday morning on a cold winters' day from Redcliffe, north of Brisbane, to the warmth of the Sunshine Coast. An hour later we had arrived at our campsite and were soon off and fishing. After our first attempt and no luck or fish, the group decided that some beach footy and cricket were in order. Late in the afternoon after our sausage sizzle the group tried a new spot on the Maroochy River. However at 11pm at night with only a few small fish caught, we gathered around the camp fire for warmth and jokes. Br Bill told

a joke which made one participant fall off his seat. At 1am the last few hopeful fishermen decided to call it quits for the night and head back to camp. Early Sunday morning campers woke bright and early at 8am, some were brighter than others, some were complaining about the cold. Later that day we gave the first spot one more try. With little luck the group went back to have a BBQ lunch and more footy. Although few fish were caught participants all agreed that the weekend was great.

## PNG LASALLIAN LEADERS SEMINAR JULY 2006



In July a gathering of Lasallian students from the four Lasallian schools in Central Province and the National Capital

District took place. The sacrifice we made in giving up our school holidays was well worth the effort. The theme of the seminar was "Finishing the race". We were all encouraged as leaders that it did not really matter how we began our year-what mattered is that we finished the year well. We learnt that all of us are stronger than one of us. Although the middle of the year was an odd time to hold a leadership seminar, it was an eye opener to realise that while some of us had began the year well we were starting to slacken off a little. A leader must be one who serves. A leader is someone who uses their gifts for the benefit of others. We need to discover how to live life to the full. We learnt the importance of working as a team. We were given a group challenge called the "Survivor Series". This was a combination of events including munching dry noodles, carrying logs, three legged races and building human pyramids. All in all we were encouraged to have vision and take time to be still and reflect. Some of the comments made by other participants include: "It is important that as Lasallians we look out for each other", "A team is made up of many and not just one". The seminar was organised by Sio Laumatia a Share the Mission volunteer from New Zealand. He was supported by Br Mark and a number of the school principals.

## A CAMP LASALLE WINTER EXPERIENCE



The Camp Lasalle program continues to go from strength to strength in Melbourne, with the recent Winter Camp Lasalle being one of the most successful yet. An excited group of 25 set off for Victoria's Phillip Island, staying at the Brothers' Cypress Lodge, for a fun filled 5 days of adventure and community.

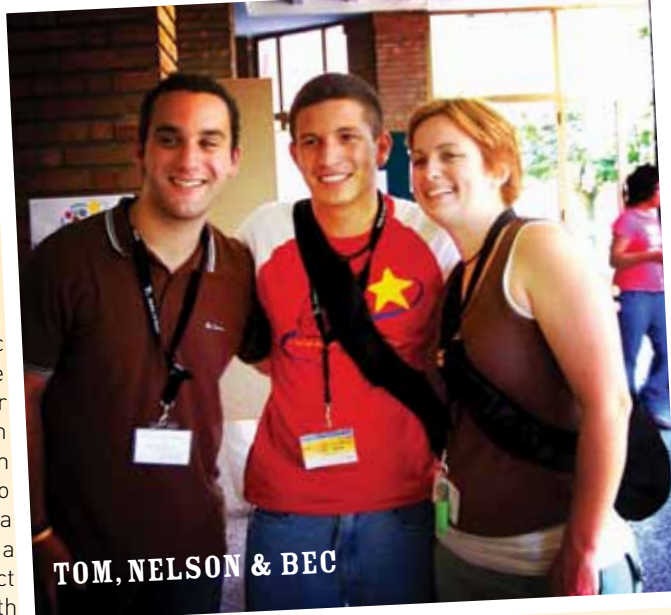
This year's group was made up of the usual Melbourne suspects as well as new students excited to find out what all the Camp Lasalle fuss was about. The weather didn't disappoint with sunshine and very little rain. The highlight of the program for many was a coastal walk led by Adrian Lane around the highest point of the Island. On the way back as the tide was coming in at a rapid pace some creative solutions were needed to get the group over a large sand dune – but as usual the Camp Lasalle spirit prevailed!

Students and Leaders came home tired but satisfied with another Camp Lasalle adventure and many stories to share. La Salle Melbourne's sights are now turned to Camp Lasalle National at Kincumber in January 2007.

# INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF YOUNG LASALLIANS

RECENTLY, ROME WAS THE HOST CITY FOR THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR YOUNG LASALLIANS.

It was held in the last week of July, bringing together over 100 Young Lasallians from around the world. The District of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea was represented by Bec Belton, Adrian Lane and Tom McIlroy. Bec is the Asia Pacific representative on the International Council for Young Lasallians, Adrian is a former Lasallian Volunteer in Balgo Hills Western Australia and Tom is currently a member of the District Vocations and Youth Ministry team.



TOM, NELSON & BEC

The First International Symposium took place in Quebec in 2002 and some regional meetings have taken place since marking out the route for the countless local programs and initiatives taking place with Young Lasallians around the world. The gathering gave young people a chance to have a significant say in the future of the mission of our Institute.

Outcomes for Asia Pacific region are already becoming a reality with a process of increased communication and sharing of resources and experiences leading to a new website to be developed and maintained over the coming years.

The District was showcased as it represents three countries making up one

District, with a very successful Youth Ministry program operating across borders. The reflection of personal experiences of Adrian and Tom received a lot of feedback from the group particularly with regard to the Camp Lasalle and Fish Lasalle programs as well as the Share the Mission Lasallian Volunteer program.

The most exciting news to come from the Symposium is the prospect of Australia hosting an International Lasallian gathering prior to Sydney's World Youth Day in 2008. World Youth Day will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to bring the Young Lasallians from around the world to Australia and there are exciting plans in the pipeline to make the most of this unique time.

INTO THE FUTURE>>>>

## Lasallian Youth Gathering 2007

Next year Melbourne Lasallians will host our gathering that occurs every two years. The dates for the gathering are July 6-10. We will keep you updated with all the details. Later in the year there will be information on the website. The gathering will also act as a lead up to World Youth Day

## Regional Youth Gathering Singapore December 2007

At the end of 2004 a small band of Australians, New Zealanders and Papua New Guineans attended APLYC7 in Hong Kong. Next year Singapore will host the gathering. It is hoped we will be able to have a contingent of TWELVE participants at this event. Start saving your money if you are interested.

## World Youth Day Lasallian Gathering July 2008

Prior to World Youth Day which will be held in Sydney there will be an international gathering of Lasallians in Melbourne. We will keep you posted with further updates.

## It's Your Call...

Join the De La Salle Brothers and experience an awesome time using your skills and talents in a world-wide community that's dedicated to the education and welfare needs of young people.



Make a difference in the lives of young people

Opportunities available in a range of areas  
- Education - Welfare - Youth Ministry

Call (02) 9795 6412

Text 0412 853 573

Click [www.delasalle.org.au](http://www.delasalle.org.au)

The De La Salle Brothers. Make the Call.

LABALLIAN The De La Salle Brothers Centenary in Australia 1906-2006

CONTACT  
DETAILS

## DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS & YOUTH MINISTRY

Br Mark McKeon fsc

PO Box 3485

BANKSTOWN SQUARE NSW 2200

[markmckeon@delasalle.org.au](mailto:markmckeon@delasalle.org.au)

Tel: (02) 97956412

Mobile: 0412853573

## LASALLIAN YOUTH MINISTERS

James Camden

[jcamden@oakhill.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jcamden@oakhill.nsw.edu.au)

Mobile: 0421642288

Tom McIlroy

[tmcilroy@delasalle.melb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tmcilroy@delasalle.melb.catholic.edu.au)

Mobile: 0418314199

Darren Perrett

[darren.perrett@lasalle.bankstown.syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:darren.perrett@lasalle.bankstown.syd.catholic.edu.au)

Mobile: 0401568107

## 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)



LASALLIAN  
YOUTH MINISTRY