



Marist Learning Centre—November 2021

“Never a day passes without my carrying you in my heart to the feet of Jesus and Mary to place you in their care and to consecrate you to them along with all the members of my numerous family.” Br. Francois, France 12/03/1808

VERY WARM GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

Kia Ora Whanau.

The above quote from Venerable Brother Francois is especially relevant at this time, as we are in our ninth week of lockdown. All our staff, students and members of the Marist whanau are never far from my heart and mind. Are they receiving the support they require, are they safe and happy, do they have food, internet and the love and support they need at this time?

With regular phone calls and daily on-line learning, we can monitor the well-being of everyone, however, Covid is taking its toll. We look forward to returning to the Centre for kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) learning and to support our students.



Left - For social and emotional well-being, we sometimes take a walk to the nearby beaches as part of our Physical Education programme. We often walk from Milford Beach to Takapuna Beach. These walks encourage social interactions and discussions around well-being in a less formal setting for the staff and students.

Right - We would like to thank the St Josephs Indoor Bowls Club for hosting Marist at their annual fundraiser evening. We learnt how to play indoor bowls, socialise with the club members and enjoy supper together. We are grateful for their donation of the proceeds from the night.



“I don't mind lockdown. It has given me the time to think about my future. With the help of Cherie and Laura from Job Hub I have two interviews for apprenticeships now that I am 16. I will miss Marist but am so happy that I have options for my future now.” Ben

Meet the Team!

"Kia Ora! Here is **Francesco or "Frankie"** as everyone calls me at Marist. I'm a 26 year old Italian guy who moved to New Zealand almost 3 years ago. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Management in Milan, and I have always been passionate about helping people in general and in taking care of those who have not been too lucky so far. I have a background in working with people with disabilities and Marist gives me the opportunity to explore a new field, have fun to teach these amazing kids and help them to be supported in the right way to reach their full potential. I recently became a new dad and this made me connect even more with this land and its people which I have now started to call Home.



Hi, my name is **Cynthia Vakalahi**. I am 26 years old and just recently graduated with a Bachelor of Social Practice (Social Work) at Unitec Institute of Technology.

I have a passion for youth, and I believe that Youth are the backbone of society. They are the promising dreamers who have tremendous potential that can be turned into tangible results. If I could encourage and empower these young people with constructive motivation, it can broaden hope and can illuminate their future perspective on the world or within themselves.

Hey hey! My name is **Conrad Smith**. I am a 25 year old teacher aide at Marist.

I have a passion for all things creative, arts and education with the hopes of one day being a fully qualified arts teacher. I have been a coach of Water Polo for over 10 years, coaching a range of ages from 10 to 18 years as well as also being a swim instructor for 8 years teaching all ages (babies to adults).

I enjoy working at Marist because it feels like a family and no two days are the same.



Hi my name is **Peter Toomey** and I am one of the staff at the Marist Learning Centre in Glenfield.

I was born in the UK and worked for the Navy as a draughtsman before emigrating to New Zealand. In my spare time I play guitar and am a registered songwriter at APRA as well as taking part in TV and movie background extra work.

I am married with two teenage sons, two cats and a dog. I love Ice Hockey and Pro Wrestling and have been an active volunteer for Anxiety NZ with a particular interest in how anxiety impacts on our youth in New Zealand.



May the Lord continue to watch over you during these uncertain times. May

As cheques are now phased out and postage is very expensive, we do ask you to use direct crediting into our bank account (number below as this is cheaper for you as well as us. It is important that you add your reference number (located at the top of your name and address) as this allows us to identify the donation and send you a receipt.

Marist Alternative Education Limited

Westpac Bank Number 03-0285-0318935-000

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