

The Bi-annual AMSA Boarding Conference

September 7th – 9th 2008

The Bi-annual Boarding conference was held this year in the cooler climate of Kilmore Victoria. The conference organised and hosted by Assumption College Kilmore, saw delegates from all seven Australian Marist Boarding Schools and one from New Zealand.

The conference venue at Lancemore Hill provided the ideal surrounds for constructive staff development, and the sharing of ideas and the solving of issues related to the mission of Marist Boarding.

The conference began with a celebration of Mass with the Assumption College Boarding community in the Le Rosey Chapel. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Peter Rankin, Parish Priest of Kilmore and the delegates were welcomed by the Boarding House Captains of Assumption College. The following days saw delegates provided with skills in situational leadership, staff motivation and effective delegation. This was to be followed by an informative and entertaining view of spiritualism and purpose for young people living in community today. Fr Elio Capra managed to inspire our thinking on this topic and left us enhanced about the formation and challenge that lies ahead for us in our ministry.

Most worthwhile was the casual chats over dinner and the log fire at Lancemore Hill that allowed delegates to share their experience and knowledge. The “how’s and whys” and “what works and what doesn’t” got debated into the late hours of the night. The quality time we got to share in each other’s company was time that will only further benefit the Marist Boarding Schools that we represent.

Our final liturgy on our last day reinvigorated the delegates and focused our thoughts on the life of Mary and Marcellin Champagnat. The delegates prayed together, regaining the strength and commitment that has developed and grown within their role as leaders. We reflected upon the students in our care and our work colleagues, but most of all we all left the conference feeling aware and prepared for the challenges that is Marist Boarding.

Paul Hopkins

Director of Boarding

Assumption College Kilmore.

