



MJR Bulletin

MARCH/APRIL 2021

TASMANIAN 2021 MJR AMBASSADORS' GET2GETHER

What a marvellous day when MJRers gathered in Hobart on Friday 19th of March to share and discover even better ways to 'spread the Good News' of MJR. The Tasmanian Director of Catholic Identity & Evangelisation, Martin Tobin spoke about the way MJR complements so many other things we do in schools. View his visual representation of this [here](#).

PETER MITCHELL

Peter Mitchell then shared his thoughts, reminisces and ideas and at the end of the day gave everyone a super one-pager to use at their schools. Download [here](#).

CATHERINE SIMMONDS

Catherine Simmonds from Rockhampton Diocese, joined the Ambassadors via Zoom (she had to dodge flooded roads to get to work!).

Catherine spoke about the amazing happenings in her area. Their MJR champions continually liaise with each other – at least once a term – about what is working well with MJR in their school communities. This has inspired the forming of the Tasmanian MJR Ambassadors.

Everyone listening to Catherine was inspired by her passion, enthusiasm, and knowledge. Plus – even more so – by the extraordinary MJR support resources they have created that contain so many ideas that work!

A BIG thank you to Catherine for not only what she shared but for the inspiring job she does in central Queensland.



MARTY OGLE

Marty Ogle, in his role as Values Education Officer, spoke about current initiatives he has instigated to help reinforce the many positives of the MJR philosophy:

1. Holding MJR whole-school staff spirituality and pastoral care sessions that continue to be referred to throughout the year. These positively impact on so many aspects of school and the school community.
2. Writing in the weekly school newsletter to highlight to the whole school community what he has undertaken in class or school sessions.
3. Working with people from various states and territories including Chris Hackett from Catholic Institute of WA/ Notre Dame, and the upcoming MJR conferences in WA with over 750 MJR enthusiasts.

4. Updating the Year 5-6 book by having a team review what needs to stay/go, and another team to develop online teacher resources.
5. Arrange to meet with Tasmanian Principals, maybe at CCEL, about the benefits of MJR – we need our leaders to be onboard for MJR to be embedded.
6. There as been an increased uptake by secondary colleges with MJR 24/7. They see the discussion of issues addressed within the 30 MJR 24/7 topics as a great pathway to improve student/staff relationships.
6. One of the BEST ideas from the GET2GETHER was to paint 3-4 rocks with an MJR slogan, and then hide them in the playground. Students look for these and then share their finds with the whole school at assembly.
7. Establishing student MJR ambassadors to help 'spread the Good News'.
8. Year 6 student E-Leaders take early years students for STEM, and incorporate MJR ideas into the sessions.
9. SOJ Teacher/Staff awards are regularly given by the students.

After some *Sharing* sessions, we had an *On the Couch* session with some of the ambassadors from across Tasmania, and then finished with a *Circuit* session where ideas were gathered on what was going to be used at our schools on the Monday.

TASMANIAN MJR AMBASSADORS IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

What is working? How do you embed MJR into your school?

WHOLE-SCHOOL MJR approaches include:

1. Theme for the whole year, eg: St Finn Barr's is focussing on GTS – *Greet Treat Speak*.
2. School has a fortnightly MJR focus e.g. Gratitude presented at assembly.
3. Use visual signage to promote focus and recognition of examples of *Spirit of Jesus* (pictures of students emphasising SOJ).
4. Rebrand things undertaken in pastoral care/wellbeing with MJR sayings to reinforce the message.
5. *MJR Hero Cards* (Gotcha Cards) – used by all staff – these are given out sparingly to make them special. They are sent home to parents/carers describing special deeds, plus they are again highlighted at weekly assemblies.
10. Year 5/6 students make videos emphasising 'Making Good Choices' that are then shown throughout the whole school.
11. Brand school sports carnivals and other events with an MJR concept, e.g. *WEST Athletics Carnival*. During the day the WEST message is explained to spectators. School camps or excursions can also be given an MJR theme, e.g. *GTS Camp*.
12. Design whole school MJR scope and sequences that are tied into behavioral management/RE curriculum etc.
13. Link MJR concepts and activities to Gospel Values and scripture.
14. Ask the PE/Art/Music/Drama teachers to incorporate MJR themes in their lessons.
15. To help staff understand MJR, have Personal Learning Sessions that focus on aspects of MJR 'catch phrases', e.g. **TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More.**
16. Paint key MJR phrases and values on school steps.
17. 'Secret Sixers' MJR student group on playground spotting SOJ moments.
18. MJR awards/SOJ awards given at assembly or at the end of the year ceremonies.
19. School websites highlight MJR as a priority, plus have MJR phrases 'splashed over' the page and weekly newsletters.

OTHER IDEAS INCLUDED

1. School camps and walking into Wine Glass Bay at Coles Bay – to complete the MJR 'Green Sheet Activity'.
2. During daily roll call, ask students to say "This is how I'm going to live the spirit of Jesus today ..."
3. How the *My Friend Jesus* journal was used to create Seesaw activities.
4. At the end of the year, have the Year 4 students present Year 2 students with their *Spirit of Jesus* journals. And, have the Year 6 students present the Year 4 students with their *Make Jesus Real* journals.

5. How MJR works in beautifully with LUDO, The Resilient Project, EYLF, and many other well being projects – "It does what they do, but with Jesus in the centre!"

As one Ambassador summed up the day,

The best Professional Learning I have ever had due to the amount of time given to sharing of ideas that work!

Lookout 2022!

Marty



Got an idea for a story, or want to share one?
Email me at marty.ogle@catholic.tas.edu.au.

GALLERY



Live Jesus in your Hearts – FOREVER!

The MJR Team ... Marty, Mitch, David, Karen, Rose, Sandy and Charmaine