

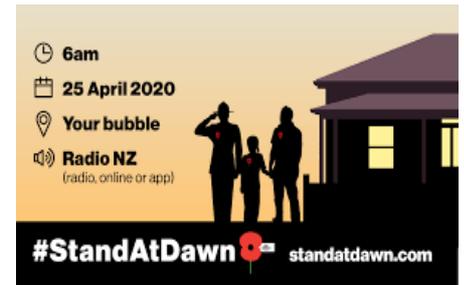


Stella Maris Board of Trustees Newsletter May 2020

*"Don't pray for easy lives.
Pray to be a stronger person." J.F.K*

I have to admit that if someone had said to me 3 months ago that this year's ANZAC day will be celebrated at the end of your driveway, in the dark, in your dressing gowns and PJ's, with homemade poppies and neighbours doing the same, singing the national anthem as off key as you do, with no music to accompany it – I would have said something like "rocks in your head". But that is how it has played out, along with all of the other changes to our "normal" lives that we have had so far in 2020. We are all now well versed in home schooling and social distancing and are armchair virologists.

The evolving COVID crisis, as it swept the World, and our little old school within New Zealand, was and still is a big shock to all. But as Alan Watts politely reminded me on Monday, while welcoming back all the small faces to school under Level 2 schooling, that change and adaptation is a necessary part of life and you can't survive without it. I have to praise our students for how quickly most of them adapted to E-School and the technology opportunities that were offered. While doing my "daddy day care" school teacher duty days I loved seeing some of the creative posts from students in the various teams, with fantastic use of imagination and spirit that was heart warming. One of the core, key competencies that children are taught, from their early years at school, is to be adaptable. From what I saw, they excelled in this.



Please don't lose sight of the amount of effort that went into providing these online learning ideas, lessons, structure etc. The teachers and team leaders, plus the school senior leadership team put in MASSIVE time and effort in changing, adapting, and planning this work, which was not easy with the constantly evolving organism that was "lock down." A special thanks to Karl Hobman and the support team who handled our students' on site learning under Level 3. Thank you to all of those involved in the planning, reporting, procedure strategising and beaurocratic requirements for Government ministries in this time. Every Beacon or newsletter or communication took quite some time to prepare in the best and correct way to ensure as many "i's" were dotted and "t's" crossed from a Governmental guidelines point of view. Thank you to all



those who "reached out" to myself and my family and checking on us and the rest of the Board of Trustees. Thank you to all of those who made an effort in some way to make lock down more fun for the children, including Bears, home made poppies, videos, games, prayers and messages. Thank you to our school cleaning team, who have worked tirelessly with Steve to ensure that we are safe and meeting each COVID level requirements, even as they constantly changed and evolved.

But, let us not lose site of those amongst us who are still under massive stress or anxiety from the whole saga, be it financial, employment concerns, health reasons or just general uncertainty or reduced ability to cope. Please do continue to reach out to those you have not heard from for a while – this is what our Stella Maris community does best. Please wave your hand if experiencing any form of difficulty that is just getting on top of you and I will make sure, Alan, myself, the BOT, School or Parish community can do what ever is possible. Do not feel you are alone.

Kind Regards, and looking forward to seeing everyone again in person, safe and well.

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