

Discern, Send, Support Evaluate

in context of Vic CLC and MAGIS
Speaker: Mary Nolan
National CLC Gathering January 2008



On personal and communal levels.

Context Victorian CLC

In 1998, Mary Nolan was 55 - the average age of CLC Australia. Mary Nolan was encouraged by Vic CLC in her 'call' to discover the relevance of CLC for younger people (20's + 30's). In 1997/98 Mary recruited and started two local CLCs - age range 23 – late 30's. In the beginning it was difficult for young members coming to wider CLC events because the predominant age group was older, and there was 'awkwardness' between various generations. Vic CLC has been transformed as younger members now form a 'critical mass' at events and the generations give to and receive from each other. Vic CLC has become a more diverse community.

In that process of moving to a comfortable 'critical mass' of YP over 10 years, the vitality and stimulus and challenge of the blend of different generational voices has become evident. Examples include: Language, breaking open the SE, CLC meeting process, more participatory community, creative ways of expression, vocational discerning are examples of areas in which younger people have both struggled and assisted us to adapt old ways.

At present two of the younger groups, Hawthorn and Parkville, have 9 and 10 members – some have moved away, and new members have come in to both groups over the past 10 years. About 3 years ago, member Janine Hellard was 'sent' by Hawthorn CLC to become guide of a new CLC group. Others have served on State and Nat EXCOs, Formation team, newsletter. We are now inducting enquirers and new members differently from 10 year ago.

Vic CLC for 2007 adopted a common:

1. Aim 'To grow and deepen CLC and to increase membership' +
2. Theme 'Living the CLC Dream' (WCLC Day theme)

During 2007, the State CLC over the year has become a more apostolic community in process of **sharing, LISTENING, discerning, sending, supporting evaluating** – although not well articulated or ritualised – involving enquirers, members, guides, EXCO, formation team and friends.

Vic CLC has articulated clearly an option to increase membership including younger people and to offer the riches of CLC to others.

MAGIS

When Magis was announced, Vic CLC realised this could be an option we could work on together in line with our Aim and Theme, and began to speak about **CLC + MAGIS**.

1st Phase: Information, Listening, Discerning, Sending, Supporting.

1st contact was initial Vic MAGIS meeting in May 2007 when Lisa Beer (EXCO), Anna Munari (F team), Janine Hellard (NEXCO) all with desire and passion for Magis were sent by Exco and F team to meeting on behalf of CLC Vic. All were enthused and interested by what they heard and experienced.

About that time, Ed Shuttleworth, + Rob Formiatti +/- Jenni Winter met for the first of 3-4 occasions with Mary Nolan and also Janine. (*Sharing listening, discerning, exchange, discussing, ideas modified*).

All 4 (Lisa, Anna, Janine and Mary) were enthused and supported by EXCO and F team. Discussions with various local CLC groups, but were still finding it hard to engage other CLCers as MAGIS seemed hard to communicate + understand.

2nd Phase: First Experiment planned

Janine shared ideas and obviously understood concept better and went ahead to plan and organise experiment in St Kilda – she developed a framework which Ed and Rob appreciated and became a reference. Janine also contacted many people who she knew who were artists. Janine then went to Italy leaving the framework and contacts with Rob who was about to finish as Vic coordinator. Janine virtually acted as Experiment leader in planning.

3rd Phase: Clarifying, questions.

Other MAGIS meetings were held – Lisa attending some. Reports were given at CLC gatherings and some members indicated interest but were still unsure. Meanwhile main questions seemed to be *How can CLC be involved? What is possible role for us? How can we get a handle on what is involved/being asked.* (*Listen, DSSE*)

It was clear that Vic CLC as a body would collaborate in MAGIS - CLC + MAGIS With end of year approaching, we decided to use community weekend gathering at Anglesea in November as an opportunity to further *clarify and discern Vic CLC + MAGIS*.

4th Phase:

CLC + MAGIS on community level. Experiments 2 and 3 being born.

Anglesea CLC weekend November 'Living the CLC Dream – in daily life' – 28 CLC members present. On Sat pm, session given to MAGIS. Sacha and Matt, young person who had attended Cambodia experiment, presented and greater clarity was reached on communal level and passion was evident. Matt's sharing of experience and views were especially helpful. He stressed his hope that all generations would be involved.

LISTEN/DISCERN

On Sunday am as part of the Where to from here for Vic CLC, time was given to members sharing reflections on MAGIS and their own responses (community discerning). Several members indicated desire to become involved while others said no. The new 'CLC +

MAGIS' group met while other CLCers prepared lunch. ***A small thing but embodied with a freedom and the 2 groups being sent by the community – one to prepare lunch and the other to prepare for MAGIS. Listen, DISCERN/SEND/SUPPORT***

The CLC + MAGIS group met and CLC seemed ready to take on 2 main experiments – Anglesea/with possible Meredith component and Buxton (led by Anna Marie McGann who is a teacher at Xavier) as well as Janine's in St Kilda. People named preference for one or other experiment and were 'sent' to get info and to report back.

December – CLC + MAGIS group met again before end year Mass at Parkville – 8 people with 2 apologies and 5 definite others interested – ideas taking more shape. Anna Marie and Michael look like leading Buxton with Peter and Tony definite helpers. Ballarat/Geelong CLCs leaning to Anglesea/ ? Meredith with Greg Jacobs sj – Noreen and Bill Nicholson, Lisa Beer, Anna Conlan, Mary Nolan.
Buxton Anna Marie and Michael and co will pick up Buxton after hols.

MAGIS Mass at Hawthorn December – CLCers Lisa, Anna- Marie and Michael attended – some YP enquiring about CLC.

Anglesea/ Meredith CLC + MAGIS group met on site at Meredith on 9 December – Noreen and Bill, Lisa, Anna, Mary and Jack Nolan and Greg Jacobs sj. Good exchange and very good spirit – 1st time with Greg. Meredith approved as site pending practicals. Big number of options for both sites brainstormed and listed with some preliminary evaluation, roles defined, and tasks allotted for follow up. **Agreement that this will be CLC + MAGIS experiment**, and other CLCers ready to assist. Next meeting on 1 Feb when program will be main item. *Listen, D, S, S,E*

Roles defined but we agree that we will work as team. Experiment leader – Greg, Logistics Noreen and Bill, Spiritual accompanier Mary (+ Anna + Bill), Young person link (and logistics) Lisa Beer.

Vic CLC + MAGIS – strong communal sense to name ourselves as CLC + collaborate in creating, planning and implementing. (*DSSE*)

Next Phase 2008 will focus on planning for the 'new baby' experiments 2 + 3' and consolidating experiment 1. It may involve other 'new babies'!

Australia Day weekend – trial experiment at Anglesea – some CLCers involved.

1 February – Anglesea/Meredith CLC + MAGIS group meeting

21 February CLC + MAGIS meeting for all CLCers involved +/- interested.

DSSE – elements of *listening, discerning, sending, supporting and evaluating* are present in cyclical form intertwining and engaging on personal and communal levels.

Listening and exchanging in honesty and dialogue has been rich and fruitful.

Mary Nolan for Vic CLC + MAGIS team January 2008.