



Marist Hermitage Mittagong

Marist presence in the Southern Highlands since 1906.

The Marist Brothers to remove vineyard at The Hermitage in Mittagong

The Marist Brothers have announced the decision to remove the vineyard located on the grounds of The Hermitage in Mittagong, New South Wales. For Marists, The Hermitage is a sacred place where those connected to Marist spirituality and philosophy are considered to be 'at home.' The property will continue its original purpose of serving as a centre for spiritual formation and retreat.

"After careful consideration, we have concluded that maintaining the vineyard is no longer economically viable," said Br David Hall, Chair of the Board at the Hermitage. "Over the last few years, the global oversupply of wine, climate change, and other operational challenges have rendered the entire exercise commercially unsustainable. And this is a trend we are seeing across the country," he added.

The Hermitage, which was purchased by the Marist Brothers in 1906, operated for nearly a century without a vineyard before one was established in the late 1990s. Since 2006, the Hermitage has been reclaimed as the Spiritual Home of the Marists and has successfully operated as a retreat and spirituality centre.

The Director of The Hermitage, Mr John Hickey commented: "We have always received extremely positive feedback from visitors to The Hermitage, and it has mostly been about our facilities, programs, staff, and the natural beauty of the surroundings. The vineyard's removal, we perceive will have no adverse impacts or disruptions to the workings of the property - either from an operational, offerings, or functional point of view. Providing a peaceful, reflective environment for retreats and programs for Marists and others has always been our focus, and we do not see the removal of the vineyard impacting that purpose at all."

"We will ensure that the vineyard is taken down and disposed of in an environmentally conscious manner. The Marist Brothers remain committed to maintaining the natural beauty and serenity of not just The Hermitage grounds, but our surroundings as well."

"After its removal, our vision includes restoring the land to pasture and exploring diverse sustainable opportunities that will enhance both the surrounding green landscape and enrich the natural ecosystem of the region", he added.

The Marist Brothers will work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including the local community in Mittagong, to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated transition as the vineyard is removed from the grounds of The Hermitage.

For more information, please contact the Hermitage Director, Mr John Hickey.

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