

# Marian College Alumni

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## This edition:

### Memories of Marian

Feature article by former  
student Claire Archer

### My Marian Journey

A reflection by teacher  
Kerrie Williams

### Where are they Now

Melissa Janz

Hasret Niazi

Anita Krsticevic

Maria Evangelou

### Marian Archivist

Marilyn Taylor

### Reunion 2015

Save the Date!

### Reunion 2014

Report and photos

### Photo Gallery

1957-1965

## Memories of Marian

*My twin sister Eileen and I started at Marian College when it opened in, I think, 1959? Or it could have been 1960.*

We attended Our Lady's school in Sunshine, Monash Rd, and I am sure we finished in 1958, having achieved our Merit certificate there.

The Principal at Marian College was Mother Loretta, and she was aided by Mother Philippa Considine. The school was in its infancy of course, so buildings were limited and 'make do'. We left in Form 3, both of us, to go to employment, Eileen in office work, and I fulfilled my ambition to become a nurse. Sadly, Eileen died when we were 33 years old from an aggressive cancer, leaving a husband and 2 small children. I was recently widowed, and have 1 child and 4 step children, 8 step grandchildren, and 5 step great grandchildren.

The school was in the middle of a paddock, and we caught the bus from Sunshine Station to school for a cost of 7 pence. If we were naughty, we would have 14 halfpennies, which would annoy the bus driver, as he had limited coin storage. We loved our uniform, which was a mid blue dress with white spots in summer, and grey tunic and blazer in winter. Straw hats in summer which we hated to wear. Softball was our sport, and to see Mother Philippa swing her bat was a sight to behold. She was not very old as I remember. She had an infectious giggle, and although she tried to keep a straight face, she failed many times. Like the time a few of us had liquorice blocks, which we used to blacken every second tooth in the front of our mouths, and took great delight in smiling at her. She reprimanded us, then had to leave the room.

I developed a very strong work ethic, and a respect for others, from the college. I know that it would have been initiated from home, and continued at Primary school at Our Lady's, but then strongly enforced by Marian College during my time there. We were always reminded that once in the work force, we had a commitment to "do our best work, and to always be mindful of others". That was an often repeated phrase of Mother Philippa's during our classes. We were always encouraged to study well, to produce our best work.

This allowed me to work in a sometimes confronting atmosphere, and to achieve well in my chosen career of nursing. After finishing my nursing training, I was able to undertake post graduate studies later in my career, and entered tertiary education under the "grandfather clause". If I had not had such a stable and grounded education, I'm sure none of this would have been achievable.

By Claire Archer



Welcome to the first edition of the Marian College Alumni Newsletter.

This newsletter will be published twice yearly and we welcome submissions from former students.

All articles including pictures can be submitted to Julie Heaney

at [jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au).

Enquiries 9363 1711

# My Marian Journey

*'Thank-you for helping to shape and define who I am as a person – I am so lucky you found me...'*

We often talk about the fact that it is the journey and not the destination that is important.

For me the destination was imperative to who I am as an individual and human being but the journey that I have had to Marian and then most importantly my road to this front door, has been just as important in defining who I am as a person now.

In 1986 after graduating from University and completing a Diploma of Education, I decided that teaching was a career I would like to pursue.

I had a number of offers for work and had 3 possible opportunities both in the government and Catholic system but it was my previous relationship with Marian, tutoring the daughter of a friend who went to the school that helped me get an interview with Sr. Brigid Arthur – the Principal of the time.

For whatever reason – perhaps a gut feeling, but certainly the right, one I decided on Marian or it decided on me.

I have now been here for nearly 30 years.

In that time I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing educators that have a vision for student learning and wellbeing that has inspired me to believe and work towards making a difference for the students that we work with.



The Brigidine sisters who have worked here have modelled for me the importance of education as a vehicle for change, and what it truly means to be human, and carry out the work that Jesus has asked of us.

I have held a range of leadership roles and have always been encouraged to develop my skills not only as a teacher but an educator and now am in the role of Assistant to the Co-Principals – Student Wellbeing.

I have had the privilege to teach and watch the development of so many young Brigidine women, two of whom are Donna Rampova and Joanne Scully – now teachers themselves at Marian. To see these young women grow and develop into both outstanding educators and human beings – makes me feel proud of my time at Marian.

I am now at that point where I now have the daughters of young women I originally taught many years ago – the cycle of life.

Marian has helped me grow into the person I am today. Along with my family, it has helped shape my view of education, social justice, the way we treat and respect each other as human beings and cemented my view of a world that comes from a Catholic lens.

It has defined me as a person and shaped the important values in my life both as a human being and as an educator and allows me each and every day to come to work believing that I can make a difference.

I am so grateful to Sr. Brigid for giving me the opportunity in the first place and do feel extremely privileged that I have seen Marian grow and develop and redevelop a number of times over the years. I would like to think that I have done the same.

As I said I am so lucky you found me ..... how blessed I have been.

*Kerrie Williams*





# Where are they Now?



*My name is Melissa and I attended Marian College from 1998-2003 .*

After school, I went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Development. This has led me to work as a Disability Case Manager for the last 6 years with various organisations such as Scope, Department of Human Services and Care Connect. The role provides a daily challenge for me as I coordinate services and funding packages for clients of all ages and abilities.

I currently live in Pascoe Vale with my husband who works as a Case Manager in the area of Homelessness and Mental Health. Together we have lived and worked in Bangladesh through an AusAid program called Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD).

When I think of Marian, I can't help but think of the daily commute on the 454 bus with everybody screaming 'move down!' as we were dangerously squashed in.

I also have fond memories of the relationships I built with particular teachers and friends along the way. I still catch up with 4 friends on a monthly basis and it has been very special to have shared birthdays, house warmings, engagements, weddings and now even babies!

Regards

*Melissa Jansz (nee Dalla)*



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*My name is Hasret Naisri and I look back fondly on my time at Marian College.*

I was a fresh faced 11 year old that started Year 7 back in 1999 and I graduated a young woman in 2004.

I remember Marian College being a multi-cultural, friendly place, and instilling a passion for helping the vulnerable and empowering women. We were made to feel like we could achieve anything. The teachers were supportive and genuinely cared for each student.

Besides being a fantastic place to learn, it was really enjoyable. I played a lead role in the musical, *Fame*, in 2002 when I was in Year 10. I played Tyrone Jackson, a rebel rapper with braids and facial hair! It was a thrilling experience and our production received rave reviews. I developed a great sense self confidence from this and still reminisce about the production and my time at Marian College.

I am currently in the final stages of a Doctor of Clinical Neuropsychology degree at La Trobe University, and also teaching first year Psychology at the university. My research examines Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and I felt motivated to study this topic because MS typically affects young women.

Alongside my work and study commitments, I have a beautiful young family. No matter where my path leads in life, Marian College will always have a special place in my heart.

*Hasret Naisri (nee Niazi)*



# Where are they Now?

*I graduated from Marian College after completing Year 12 in 1996 and have had a very successful path both personally & professionally.*

After leaving Marian College I studied Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) with a diploma of business management at RMIT city campus. I was accepted into a company called Accenture who are a global organisation in IT consulting. I absolutely loved it and got to work for many clients and pretty much got to see the world for free (lots of travel) and lasted 10 years there.

There was a moment after my 10 years that I had the opportunity to set the path forward into a partner role at Accenture and be one of select few women in a global organisation but I must have had a mid-life crisis and decided to go outside my comfort zone where I worked for the TAB for 3 years. I am now at Australia Post. In my role at Australia Post I am the Head of Technology for Retail. The role is similar to a mini CIO role within Australia Post and am part of the senior leadership team here. I am in the top 40 leaders (out of a 1,200 IT team here). I am privileged to have such a role and loving every minute.

At Marian College I probably didn't do extremely well in my VCE but was accepted into Computer Science at RMIT as it was promoting a new course. I was with fellow students who topped 90+ as their VCE result but what I found is that most of the students from the elite high schools were coached so much they didn't do too well at University. Uni was extremely hard, but in the end I was one of the top students and got lots of job offers when I applied for graduate positions at the top IT firms.

To this day, I still get funny looks when I say I come from "Marian College". To put it simply there aren't a lot of people from the 'west' who are in leadership in such large companies. I am a big promoter that women in senior leadership roles is possible. I was just an average student, living in Deer Park but had the willingness to work very hard for my success. It's certainly not easy but a little encouragement here and there keeps you going.

This picture is a recent one of me and my older sisters Tanija and Natalija who both went to Marian. Natalija was the 'golden' middle child and I believed scored in the top 10 in her VCE. I am the one on the far right. I don't think I've changed much.

*Anita Matuszewski - (nee Krsticevic)*



*Sisters Tanija and Natalija and Anita*



# Where are they Now?

*My first memories of Marian College are of the open day I attended.*



I remember walking through the school thinking "oh yeah, this isn't too bad, there's a tennis court and all, that's it, I'm taking up tennis!". At the end of the tour, we were asked if we had any questions. I had a question that would be the deciding factor as to whether or not I enrolled at Marian. That question was "Do you offer legal studies?".

If you asked me what occupation I had in mind in grade 6, the answer you would have received was "I want to be a lawyer". When asked, "do you have a backup plan in case that doesn't happen?" the answer you would have received was "backup plan? No need for one, I am going to be a lawyer no matter how long it takes".

Luckily for Marian, they did offer legal studies as a subject. After taking that class, I wanted to be a lawyer more than ever.

So, I know what you all must be asking, did you do it? Did you become a lawyer? Well, I sure did! Luckily, I was able to follow through with my dream and was admitted as a lawyer in February of 2013. I am currently working for the Federal Government and I'm happy to say that I've achieved everything I wanted to and more.

Don't get me wrong though, my time at Marian wasn't all about legal studies. I had some of the best times of my life at Marian and met people whom I still have a close friendship with. My best year at Marian was definitely year 9 (9 Brigid represent!). Year 9 camp was one of the most hilarious experiences of my life. I recall my favourite teacher, Sister Martin, wearing a black beanie and pretending to rap.

Those experiences and memories are absolutely priceless!



Another highlight was definitely 'muck up' day. One of the permitted materials that we were told we could use was 'plastic wrap'. Now I would presume that what was meant by 'plastic wrap' was something along the lines of glad wrap bought at the supermarket.

Well, being an aspiring lawyer, I found a way around that and got my dad to get me some industrial strength plastic wrap. This plastic wrap was used to bind metal together and was about 5 times as long as and 5 times stronger than glad wrap. Oh my, watching people try to tear through that was definitely fun.

Lesson learnt for Marian- Be very specific in your definition of plastic wrap. Perhaps you need a lawyer (I charge in 6 minute intervals if you're interested).

All in all my time at Marian was a good experience and I will carry those memories with me forever. Sad thing is though; I never did actually get to use the tennis court.

*Maria Evangelou*



# Marian College Archivist

*My name is Marilyn Taylor and over the last 18 months I have been working on the Archive collection at Marian College.*

The collection has been tucked away in various hidey holes underneath the school, in no particular order. Venturing under the school, dodging a few cobwebs and discovering what exists has revealed a great collection of class photographs which are now all collated and scanned. I am gradually cataloguing all the records so they can be accessed by everyone through our web page. I also have found school magazines, newsletters and other memorabilia.

I love what I am doing and if you have any memorabilia that you would like to donate to the school please feel free to contact me at anytime via my email at: [mtaylor@mariansw.catholic.edu.au](mailto:mtaylor@mariansw.catholic.edu.au). I am also happy to scan any photographs or documents that you would be prepared to loan me and then return safely to you.

*Marilyn*

## Combined Reunion 2015– Save the Date!

This year we will host a Combined Reunion for students who completed their final year of schooling at Marian College in the years

**1965, 1975, 1985, 1995 and 2005.**

The reunion will be held at the College on

**Saturday 21st November from 1pm-4pm**

Former students will be invited to enjoy the Art Exhibition, view the photographic displays, enjoy refreshments and tour the College.

We hope to see YOU there.

Please help us to promote this event by spreading the word  
through social media.

To assist with catering, we require all attendees to register by calling Julie Heaney 9363 1711 or email [jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au)



# Reunion 2014

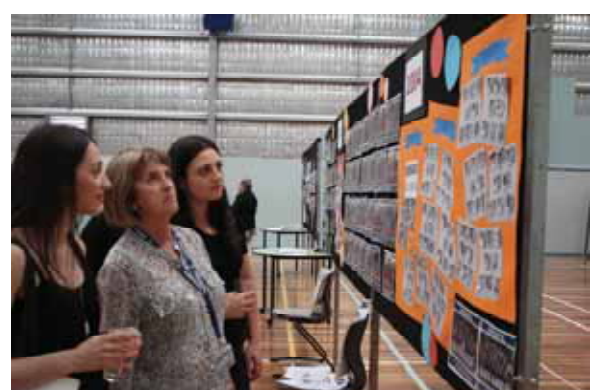
*In November 2014 an enthusiast group of former Marian College students came together to reminisce and celebrate their memories of the College.*

Representatives from the years spanning 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994 and 2004, were welcomed by Co-Principals Mrs Rita Grima and Mr Raymond Pisani.

The event was held in the College gymnasium and former students were invited to enjoy the annual art exhibition while renewing old friendships.

Photographic displays and a PowerPoint presentation included class photos, year books and newsletters.

Following afternoon tea, the Co-Principals led a tour of the College and for most of the group this was their first opportunity to view the College facilities in a very long time.





## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1957-1959 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP GROUP



1957-1959 SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1957



1961 Form 2



## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1961 Form 3



1962 Form 1



## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1962 FORM 2



1962 FORM 3

# Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1962 FORM 4 & 5

## Looking for photos from your days at Marian College?



If you would like to view our catalogued collection just go to the Marian College website [www.mariansw.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mariansw.catholic.edu.au) and go the Resource Centre.

- Login as GUEST.
- go to ADVANCED search
- under TITLE type in the *year* you are looking
- under TYPE write *archive*
- Press SEARCH.

### Main Information

Title	1965
Author	
Edition	
Publisher	
Type	Archive <input type="button" value="x"/>
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## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1963 FORM 4



1964 FORM 5



## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1965 FORM 1

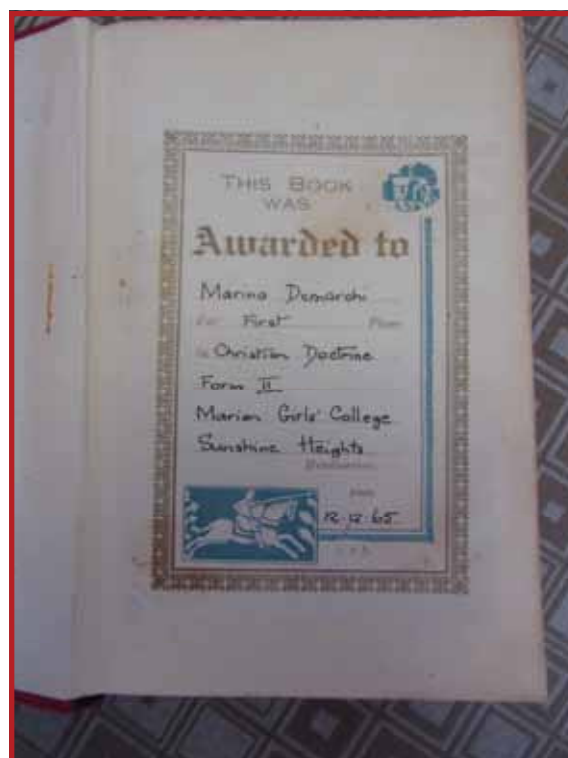
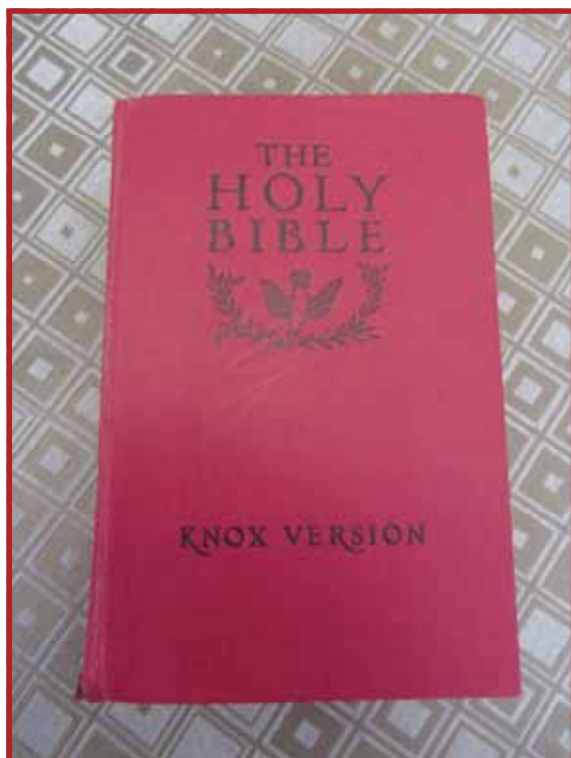


1965 FORM 2

## Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1965 FORM 6



1965 FORM 2 AWARD

# Photo gallery 1957 - 1965



1957-1959 MOTHER STEPHANIE  
O'NEILL CSB - PRINCIPAL



1960-1965 MOTHER LORETO SLATTERY CSB -  
PRINCIPAL



1960-1965 MOTHER LORETO  
SLATTERY CSB - PRINCIPAL



1960s BUILDINGS



1960s MARIAN COLLEGE HALL



1962-1965 MARIAN COLLEGE BLAZER POCKET  
DONATED BY CARMEL NOONAN (NEE ASCIAK)