

Marian College Alumni

EDITION 3

JUNE 2016

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Memories of Marian 1960-1965

Janine Dobson—formerly Joyce Lipinski

It has now been 50 years since I completed Form 6 (Year 12) at Marian College.

It seems a good reason to reflect on and to share some of the memories of school life at Marian all those years ago.

Marian College was established in 1957 to meet the secondary educational requirements of the girls of predominantly migrant families who had settled in the western suburbs in the post-war years. The Brigidine Order of nuns ran the school from the outset. It was one of several schools in which they were involved, including schools established many years before in the eastern suburbs and regional Victoria.

I joined the school in 1960 as a Form 1 (Year 7) student along with forty-two others. At that time there were approximately 150 girls in the school to Form 5 (Year 11) level only. Our classrooms were adjacent to St. Paul's Primary School with some portables also being used. It wasn't until 1964 that we moved into the new College.

The teachers were predominantly nuns, including the Principal, Mother Loreto, who taught full-time and worked extremely hard both as a teacher and as an administrator. I remember the teachers as a very dedicated group, who worked as a team and showed loyalty both to the school and to the Principal. For them teaching was more than a career. It was a calling based on a life-long commitment to an Order devoted to secondary teaching. Recognising them first and foremost as nuns, and second as teachers, we, as students, had no doubts about their integrity and sincerity. They lived together locally and attended Sunday Mass alongside parishioners. Consequently, most teachers showed a keen interest in their students. However, the relationship between teacher and student was generally a formal one.



Welcome to this edition of the Marian College Alumni Newsletter.

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

All articles including pictures can be submitted to Julie Heaney

at jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au.

Enquiries 9363 1711

Memories of Marian 1960-1965 continued

On the teaching side, the emphasis was on academic performance. Being a new school with no Government funding, it was sadly lacking in teaching resources. There was no library and very few facilities for teaching science so the school mainly offered humanities. The curriculum was broadly that set by the State Education Department. Because the school was subject to external examinations in the senior years it concentrated on preparing the girls for this requirement. The teachers chose class texts carefully and to their own standards. I remember clearly our Form 6 English Literature teacher refusing to allow us to study D. H. Lawrence's works because they were too explicit. Some of the dialogue in Shakespeare's "Antony and Cleopatra" too, was to be frowned upon.

Girls also took part in extracurricular activities such as elocution, singing, drama, physical education and craft. There was a school choir that competed with other school choirs at various concerts. From memory I believe we came third on one occasion. Excursions and sports days with other schools were also organised. There was daily Religious Education and pastoral care which included the parish priest and the weekly celebration of Mass. The highest standard of behaviour was expected; ladylike behaviour was encouraged. There was the emphasis on wearing hats and gloves and on behaving correctly in public. "A lady would not eat in the street, laugh loudly, or appear in public untidy", we were often told.

Clearly, during those years Marian College did offer girls a good basic education. Some girls did go on to Teachers' Colleges and a rare few to Universities. The majority took up clerical or administrative work in offices. The importance of academic achievement stressed in the school was rarely reinforced in the home. The majority of parents at that time held the view that most girls would marry and concentrate on caring for a family, so an advanced education was not necessary.



Form 2 1961

Memories of Marian 1960-1965 continued

The school may have had its shortcomings but I can honestly say I was very happy there. The memory that lingers to this day is the caring, personalised approach of the teaching staff and the feeling of being accepted as a unique individual.

This article would be incomplete if I didn't include something of my own life after those six years at Marian College. My Form 6 exam results were sufficiently good enough to be offered an Education Department Studentship to study at Monash University. Unfortunately, I did not take this up. As a 17 year old, it all seemed so daunting at that time such as the daily travel from Deer Park, possibly boarding there, the 4 to 5 year commitment, the complexities of University life, making new friends. There was not then the career counselling and support that we have today. So, for a number of years I did secretarial and administrative work. I did enjoy this and met many interesting people but the desire to attend University never left me. After I married I returned to study as a mature age student. I completed an Arts Honours degree in History and Politics at the University of Melbourne, tutored there for a year, completed a Diploma in Education and later a Graduate Diploma in School Librarianship.

Over a period of about twenty years I worked as a secondary school teacher and teacher librarian. These days I do a little voluntary work and am quite active at our Parish Church, content with the small contribution I have made as a wife, mother and school teacher.

Janine Dobson
(Joyce Lipinski)



Form 5 1964

Memories of Marian 1964-1969

By Marina Maggs (nee Demarchi) Marian College student 1964-1969

The year was 1964 and a shy schoolgirl in a new oversized uniform complete with hat and gloves, got onto the North Sunshine bus going to Sunshine. Soon another girl got onto the same bus with the same oversized uniform. Her name was Liz and we were to become, and we still remain, the very best of friends.

Another bus took us down Glengala Rd to the new school – Marian College. We were the first form 1 class (year 7) in the new building. There were older girls there in other classes, but we were the first girls to go from form 1 to form 6 in the new school building.

The building was very basic with no sewerage connected for a while – an interesting time... we had to wear aprons over our uniforms so they would stay clean, and indoor shoes. There were no fences around the school so the open paddock behind the building, was our “play area.” Classrooms were huge and we were a mixture of Aussies, Maltese, Italian, Irish, Greek, Polish, Ukraine etc; a very multicultural group.

My best memories of school were the “non-scholastic activities” – although I was a reasonable student and enjoyed most classes too. The main activities I enjoyed involved sports and school plays. We had softball and netball teams (tennis too I believe, but I did not play) and we competed against other schools. We were not necessarily champions but we always had fun. Swimming classes and competitions were also enjoyed.

We were all split up into 4 teams – Tara, Clonard, Kildare and Iona (I was team captain for Clonard in 1969 when we won the yearly sports day and was pretty chuffed!) These sports groups encouraged team spirit and a sense of belonging and learning to work together as a team – which we took with us and used as adults, when we left the school.



Memories of Marian 1964-1969 continued

End of the year speech night was always fun too. We had a drama teacher – Miss Holyoak – who taught us elocution and prepared us for the end of year play. Somehow something always went wrong and we would giggle our way through the evening. On one occasion, I was on stage with a group of about 15 girls singing, and just as we sang the high note, I saw a light reflecting off the head of a bald man – and he was yawning! Naturally I laughed.....then another night a couple of us got a coughing fit while we were singing Christmas carols - more laughter and more coughing and Miss Holyoak wagging her finger at us from the side, getting more and more upset. (We still had 4 more carols to sing and we coughed and giggled through all of them) – not very mature I know!

In form 5 (year 11), we went on a big excursion to Harrietville (I think it was for 2 nights). On the way we stopped at the woollen mill in Wangaratta where we were shown around and by the time we walked out I looked like a sheep – my woollen duffel coat had attracted lots of white fluff while walking through the building! Following a stop at a brewery, we finally arrived at Harrietville where we stayed in cabins. It was a huge adventure! For many of us, it was the first time away from our parents and it was loads of fun – some short sheeting may have taken place.....it was also for many seeing real snow for the first time and snow fights were very much the rage. Those 3 days were magic as in those days, excursions of any kind were rare. I remember Mother Miriam and Mother Maureen in particular had a great time with us.

School Dance – during form 5 they announced that there would be a school dance with boys from another school – exciting news indeed, so dance lessons were part of our preparation. I remember them quite well.....and they were definitely a lot of fun. On dance night, all dolled up, we were lined up in the corridors and matched up with whoever was next in line (very romantic!!!!). I believe the nuns enjoyed this evening as well.

We were all very excited when the nuns were to change their habits and their hair would be partially on display for the first time. I remember how embarrassed some of them looked on the first day, particularly the principal, Mother Frances Theresa – who was my favourite teacher - she could be tough but she was extremely fair and genuinely believed in her girls and tried to instil in all of us, a sense of pride and self worth.



Memories of Marian 1964-1969 continued

Another teacher whom I remember very fondly is Olwen Ford. She was relatively young and taught us Australian History in form 6. She was very passionate about history. During the first school holidays she asked us who was going to volunteer to have a get together during the holidays for a special class. We were gobsmacked! No teacher had ever done that before! Everyone came to my house and she swamped us with poems and music from that era, as well as using the prescribed history books - she brought that era to life for us! Every one of us did very well at the end of year exams.

I remember we had a careers night at the school in 1968 – form five, and we had speakers present. They were a nun, a nurse, a teacher, a secretary and a mother. They were the only choices given to us! Times have very much changed!!! (Remember that in those days, most students left school at form four and then joined the workforce or went to secretarial school.)

From our huge intake of about 120 form one students, only twelve of us continued onto form 6 – then called matriculation. Of the twelve, 10 became teachers, one became a librarian and I eventually joined the public service. Our exams were external and the results were published in the papers..... we even had a little article giving our names and results in the local paper! (See next page.)

I was at Marian from 1964 to 1969 and I did enjoy my time there. I truly believe that these extra “non-scholastic activities” definitely helped me to “survive” my school years. Instead of seeing school as a chore or dwelling on the usual teenage “issues”, I believe taking part in whatever activities the school provided – sports, plays etc. helped me to thoroughly enjoy my time at Marian College and prepare me for life, and I would imagine that this idea of keeping busy with extra activities would also apply to current students as well.

By Marina Maggs (nee Demarchi)



Memories of Marian 1964-1969 continued

Demarchi M E 21331 01D 06B 25B 29B.

MARIAN COLLEGE EXAM RESULTS

Marian Girl's College, Glengala Road, Sunshine West have released results for Leaving and Matriculation examinations held at the college last year.

MATRICULATION RESULTS.	English Expression D,	Expression D, Australian
Kathleen Anstey,	English Literature D, Bio-	History C.
English Expression D,	logy D, Australian His-	Krystyna Jarzenko,
French D, Geography C,	tory D.	English Expression D,
Australian History B,	Marina Demarchi,	Geography D.
Maria Bilan, English	English Expression D,	Maria Kwiatkowski
Expression D.	French B, Geography B,	English Expression D,
Kathryn Coupe,	Australian History B,	French B, Biology C, Ge-
	Julie Hellard, English	ography B, Australian

History C.
Elizabeth Lyszcza, English Expression D, Geography D, Australian History D.
Patricia McGirr, English Expression D, Biology D, Geography C, Australian History D.
Barbara Paras, German B, Biology D, Geography C, Australian History B.
Maria Silber, English Expression D, German D, Biology D, Australian History D.
Elizabeth Vanderveldt, Dutch D, Australian History C.
Maira Kwiatkowski was also awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship.

Form 6 results published 1969



1967



House Captains 1969

My Marian Journey

Each Alumni Newsletter we ask a staff member who was also a former student at Marian College, to reflect on her time then and now. This is a reflection by Vineta Iopa. Class of 2011.



My name is Vineta Iopa and I commenced my secondary education at Marian College in 2006. In that year there were five homeroom groups and I was in 7 Doyle. My homeroom teacher was Ms Mandy Borg. The Co Principals at that time were Kerrie Williams and Elaine Dugdale-Walker.

In the early years of my secondary schooling I enjoyed the \$2.50 shepherd's pie from the canteen. I especially enjoyed food tech classes with Ms Borg. We had a lot of fun in food tech. Maybe too much fun!

The year 7 camp gave me an opportunity to make new friends as I had only been at St Pauls one term before commencing at Marian. These friends are still my friends today.

I also first met Csilla Schild when I went to Choir camp in year 7. Csilla was in year 9 that year and we are both now working at Marian College.

In my last year at Marian College I was honoured as Lamp Bearer to carry in the banner with Maxine Gutierrez. Unfortunately I managed to accidentally hit guests with the banner!!! Not my finest moment!

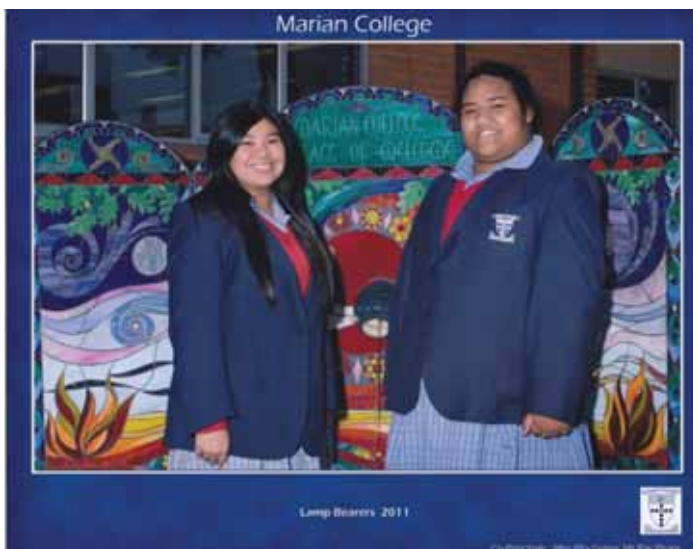
Beyond my secondary schooling I never had a clear career path; having wanted to be either a flight attendant (changed my mind because I can't swim), a lawyer or a teacher.

After graduating I commenced a Bachelor of Management at Deakin University. Eighteen months later I realised it wasn't what I wanted to do. I took a gap year before I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I commenced a Diploma of Tertiary Studies and am now on my Bachelor of Education, in my second year. I will graduate in 2018 and I hope to work in a



Year 7 Doyle 2006

primary school a generalist teacher.



In 2014 I was fortunate enough to gain part time employment at Marian College. In my role as Administration Support I have an insight into the way a school runs and appreciate the hard work that goes into this on a daily basis. It is interesting to be at Marian as a staff member instead of a student. I enjoy being on the 'other side of the fence.'

I believe my education at Marian College gave me confidence and acceptance of myself and for the person I am. I am for ever grateful for this.

Vineta

Where are they now?

By former student An Huynh Class of 1995

My days at Marian College.

It began with great anticipation and nervous excitement. Starting high school is daunting for any child of a mere 12 years of age. I had so many questions, which I look back on now and laugh at my childhood innocence. How would I make new friends? What would it be like catching the school bus? Will my teachers be encouraging or strict and stern? Would I hate high school and could I return to the comforts of primary school?

Soon enough, I did make new friends. One of my dear friends, Jennie whom I still catch up with, has become a lifelong friend. It's probably safe to say that Jennie and I were big nerds back then. We are probably just as nerdy, but hopefully more stylish now! A far cry from the tartan winter skirts and those scratchy jumpers that was the uniform.

Of the teachers, Mr Greg Tepper stood out for me. He helped make some very complex maths problems appear clearer.

Before I knew it we were buckling down for VCE exams. I recall the final year of intense pressure and doubt. But in the end, like most things in life, it all sorted itself out.

I now work for the Victorian Public Service by day, most nights I head to the gym for training and instruct a cardio class every Wednesday night. I have two cheeky but gorgeous boys who keep me on my toes, and a very understanding husband who makes sure everything sticks together. He is oddly fond of superglue.

I have found throughout life, that the most simplest of advice can be the most effective. "Don't sweat the small stuff". "Live life to the fullest".

Often corny, but always rings true.

So if I could meet that shy, unassuming, full of doubt 12 year old girl, I would say, treasure the experience because in the end, she'll be right.

An Huynh



Marian Lampbearers 2016



2016 Lamp Bearers Elisa Tohi and Sachini Bandaranayake

The past five months have been an incredible experience for the both of us. As the Lamp Bearers of Marian College we are given the privilege of representing the school at all formal occasions and are able to contribute to different aspects of school life in collaboration with members of the Marian community including the Co-Principals, staff members and the Student Representative Council.

One of the highlights of our leadership journey so far has been the Archbishops Conversation for Leaders, where we were able to meet the Archbishop, Denis Hart and take part in a discussion surrounding the Church's 'Year of Mercy' and how we can show mercy in our own lives and in our community.

Another highlight was the Leadership Camp in February where we were able to go on a two-day retreat with eighteen of our peers. On this camp we worked together to set our goals as a Leadership group for the year while also working on different skills such as public speaking and teamwork. We had great time learning more about ourselves and each other and came back refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges of VCE.

This year we hope to encourage each student to recognise their unique potential and to develop their gifts and talents. Marian has provided us with many wonderful opportunities to develop our gifts and to explore who we are as women in the 21st century. Throughout our years at Marian we have both been able to get involved in the school community through extracurricular activities (Marian College Leo's Club, Cultural Diversity and Gospel Group). Getting involved in the school life through extracurricular clubs or groups is definitely something that we recommend to all students. Choosing to get involved is one of the best decisions you will make; whether it's gardening, acting or social justice, there are plenty of opportunities for students to explore their interests. For us, being a part of Leo's (Sachini) and Gospel (Elisa) has provided us with an outlet to both serve the community - through charity and music - and to have the time to enjoy ourselves while getting to know other students who share similar interests. For me (Elisa) some of my best memories are performing with the Gospel girls or simply just sharing a laugh during practice.

Being the Lamp Bearers of Marian College has been a wonderful experience so far, one that we are both immensely grateful and proud of. As we continue to navigate our way through this final year we hope to make the most of our limited time at Marian and look forward to what the rest of the year holds.

By Sachini Bandaranayake and Elisa Tohi

Photo gallery 1966



1966 Form 1



1966 Form 2

Photo gallery 1966



1966 FORM 3



1966 FORM 4

Photo gallery 1966



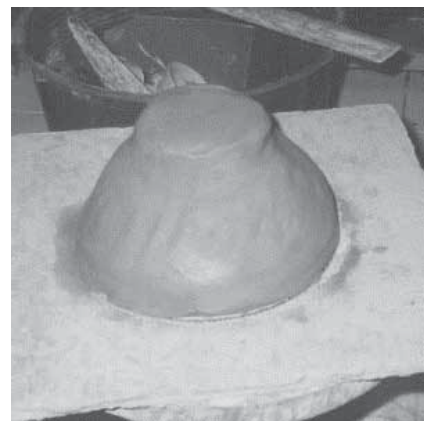
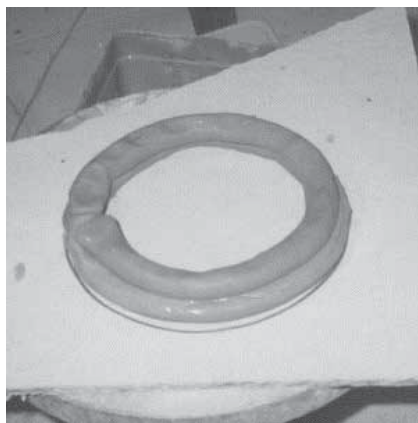
1966 FORM 5



1966 FORM 6

Photo gallery

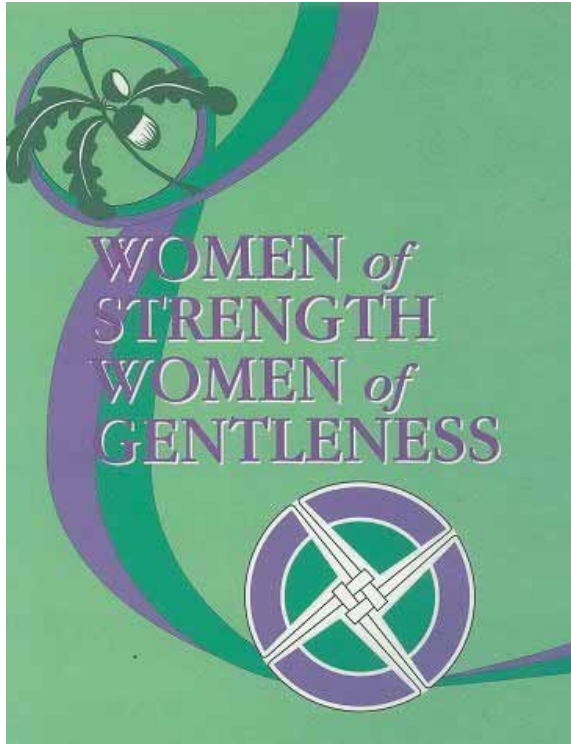
THE MAKING OF THE LAMP OF LEARNING 2004



BRIGIDINE SISTERS 1957-2008

1957-1959	Mother Stephanie O'Neill CSB (Mary Ellen) – Principal
1960-1965	Mother Loreto Slattery CSB (Sheila Anne) – Principal
1960s	Mother Marian Kiniry CSB (Mary) – Teacher
1961 1963-1968	Mother Miriam Liston CSB (Carmel Margaret) – Teacher
1961-1964	Sister Philippa Considine CSB (Margaret) – Teacher
1964	Mother Bernard Ryle CSB (Nora May) – Teacher
1964-1965	Mother Maureen Murray CSB (Margaret) – Teacher
1965	Sister Ann Margaret Greene CSB (Joseph/Jo-Ann) – Teacher
1966-1971	Sister Frances Teresa Evans CSB (Carmel) – Principal
1967-1978	Sister Veronica O'Brien CSB (Finbar) – Teacher
1967 1981-1984	Sister Chanel Williams CSB (Julia Elizabeth) – Teacher
1968-1970	Sister Veronica Carr CSB (Ursula) - Teacher
1970s	Sister Frances Moran CSB (Anthony) – Teacher
1970s	Sister Margaret Neil CSB – Teacher
1970	Sister Julianne Jenkins CSB (Margaret Mary) – Teacher
1972-1974 [Sept.] – 1979 [Sept.]-1992	Sister Brigid Arthur CSB (Marie) – Principal
1975 [Sept.]-1977 [Sept.]	Sister Catherine Anne Kelly CSB (Cabrini) – Principal
1978 [Sept.]-1979 [Sept.]	Sister Helen Watson CSB – Principal
1979	Sister Majella Thomas CSB (Shirley Monica) – Teacher
1980s	Sister Barbara May CSB (Stephen) – Teacher
1981-1992	Sister Agnes Lyng CSB (Sylvester) – Teacher
1983	Sister Dorothea Pini CSB (Margaret) – Teacher
1985	Sister Anne Elvey CSB – Teacher
1993-1997	Sister Cecilia Merrigan CSB (Margaret Therese) – Teacher
1996-2008	Sister Martin Jones CSB (Ann Mary) - Teacher
2000-2001	Sister Louise Patricia Cleary CSB (Gregory) - Principal

Brigidine Sisters



SISTER MAJELLA THOMAS CSB - TEACHER



SISTER BRIGID ARTHUR CSB - PRINCIPAL

Brigidine Sisters



1981 SISTER CHANEL WILLIAMS CSB

INTERVIEW WITH SISTER CHANEL WILLIAMS CSB – Teacher at MARIAN COLLEGE 1967, 1981-1984

by Marilyn Taylor-Archivist 4/09/2014 at her home in Bon Beach, Victoria.

Sister Chanel reminiscing about Marian in the late 1960s and early 1980s!

Our conversation began with: Do you realise that Ardeer got its name from Ardeer in Scotland because of the mud, thistles and rocks? That certainly summed up Marian College when Sister Chanel arrived at Marian College in 1967 – the students had to have two pairs of shoes, one pair for outside and one pair for inside. Early photographs certainly attest to this fact.

In 1967 Sister Frances Teresa Evans was Principal and class sizes were around 85 or so. Sister Chanel said that there was little consultation and the attitude was 'just do it'. There were not many Australian born students and they were mainly Ukrainian, German, Polish and Russian. Fundraising activities were a popular means of getting extra money to run the school. Some of these activities included sock dancing which Sister Chanel had a good chuckle about. Sister Frances Teresa taught English, Mother Bernard Ryle taught French and Sister Miriam Liston essentially taught in the Senior Classes and Sister Veronica O'Brien taught in the Middle School.

By the time Sister Chanel returned to Marian College in 1981 Sister Brigid Arthur was Principal and class sizes had reduced to between 30 and 40 students. The migrant groups had changed and they now were mainly Maltese, Italian and Croatian. There was more consultation with staff and students and the staff was actively encouraged to do home visits. During this period Sister Chanel received a grant to make a native garden.

It was also at this time that Sister Brigid employed a male teacher which was quite out of the ordinary. Other initiatives that were undertaken were the introduction of breakfast club.

This was a time of great change at Marian College.



Marian productions Night of the Carnevale 1990



Above: Fiona Hili-the Producer, with Tonya Plack
– Music Teacher at Marian College in 1990.



Marian College School Song

V1: We come from many countries to this place
From Europe old and new, the East and Asia too
We bring so many stories to this place

V2: We bring our hopes and dreams to this place
Hopes for freedom and for peace, dreams that war and fights will cease
We bring our deepest longings to this place

Chorus 1:

And in the spirit of St. Brigid, despite the darkest nights
We will hold the lamp of learning, and keep it burning bright
We will take the reeds of hopelessness, and form a sacred sign
To show that strength and kindness is our Marian design
To show that strength and kindness is our Marian design

V3: We remember those who helped to build this place
The ones who worked and planned, so that learning will expand
We thank all those who've given us this place

V4: We'll take with us good memories of this place
Of sharing and of giving, of honest simple living
We'll help transform our culture from this place

Chorus 2:

And in the spirit of St. Brigid, when those around us fear
We will welcome the most vulnerable and make our message clear
With the God of all the universe, the thread of all that's good
We will live strong lives of gentleness as Marian students should
We will live strong lives of gentleness as Marian students should

The Marian School Song was written by staff at the College; Principal Gerard Stafford (lyrics) and Performing Arts teachers Maria Agius and Adrian Schultz.

This was our first school song, and it was written to reflect both a contemporary style in music and the multicultural fabric of our community.

It continues to be the song students and staff sing together at each school gathering.

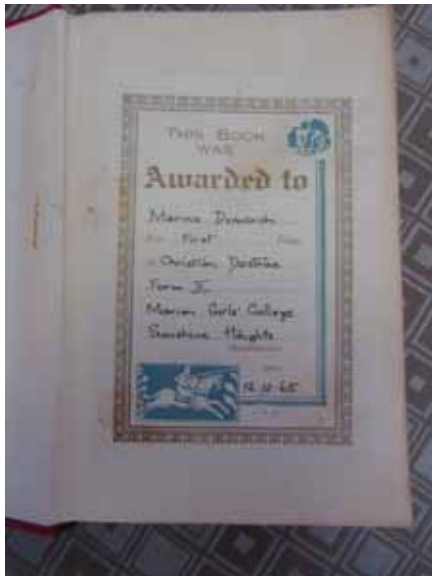
Marian College Archivist

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. I am also happy to scan any photographs or documents that you would be prepared to loan me and then return safely to you.

AWARDS & TROPHIES FROM MARIAN COLLEGE ARCHIVES



1965 Form 2 Award.



1968-1977 James Doyle Shield



JAMES DOYLE SHIELD - Christine Webber 1968

Combined Reunion

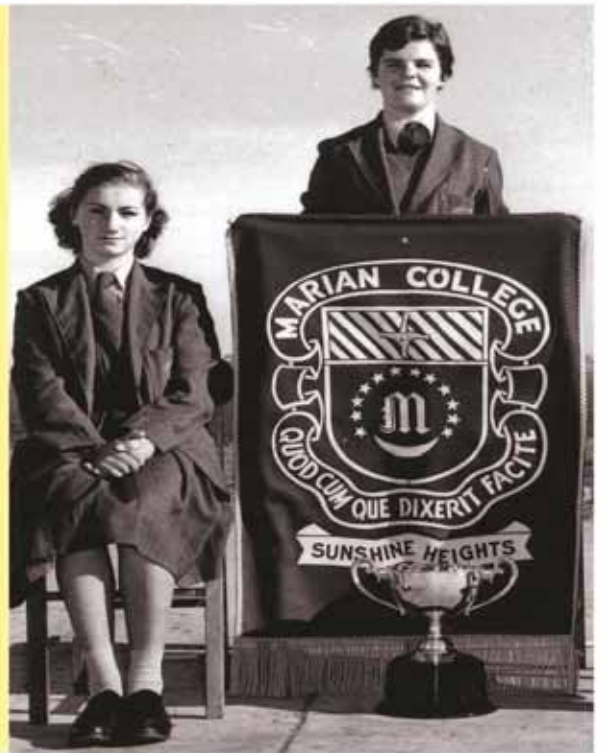
for Marian College students
who graduated in the years

**1966, 1976, 1986,
1996, 2006**

Saturday 10th September 1-4pm
Marian College

enter at gate 3

Enquiries & RSVP: 9363 1711
jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au



Current Staff, former Staff and former Marian College Students
are invited to attend this reunion event.

Come along and renew old acquaintances.

Join us for a tour of the College, enjoy the photographic displays
and refreshments.

We encourage you to spread the word of this reunion.


**For further details and to RSVP your attendance please contact
Julie Heaney 9363 1711 or email jheaney@mariansw.catholic.edu.au**

Archives Access

Looking for photos from your days at Marian College?

If you would like to view our catalogued collection go to the Marian College website www.mariansw.catholic.edu.au and go the

RESOURCE CENTRE

- go to **ADVANCED**  search
- Click on **SUBJECTS** and type **MARIAN COLLEGE ARCHIVES**
- Enter **SEARCH**

A complete list of archives appears.

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