Do you remember?

MARIAN COLLEGE, 1996 - STAFF.

BACK ROW: Mr. Daron Lowery, Mrs. Rose Rowe, Mrs. Judy Perkins, Mr. Wayne Nichols, Mr. Matthew Summers, Mr. Anthony Chapman.

THIRD ROW: Mrs. Ross McGregor, Mr. John Coghill, Mrs. Linden Howson, Mrs. Judy Barry.

SECOND ROW: Mrs. Lynne Baglow, Mrs. Anne Marie Joyce, Mr. Paul Duffy, Mrs. Maureen Luten, Mrs. Anne Baring.

FRONT ROW: Mrs. Julie Whalan, Mrs. Angela Newton, Nara Lawes, Mrs. Mandy Graham, Mrs. Maureen Brady, Mrs. Susan Humphreys, Sr. Maria Groom, Mrs. Margaret Guin, Mrs. Judy Nichols, Miss Laura Jackson.

ABSENT: Mr. Steve Mallen, Mrs. Donna Spahling.

MARIAN COLLEGE
ARARAT
1981
STAFF

FRENCH/P.E.: Mr. Vincent Ferman
8/96, Photo by: Regan Doc.
Welcome to Marian College Alumni

Welcome back. As many of us look back and consider our school days to be the best years of our lives, we wish to rekindle your association with Marian College.

Our aim is to re-link communication with past our friends and students to advise you of reunions, gatherings, news, births, marriages, bereavements, information about how Marian College is progressing and to take a step back in time to the days of the old school yard.

We welcome your stories, news and we are happy to assist you if you wish to organise a reunion for your year.

In 2012 Marian College has 555 students enrolled. A multi-million dollar Gymnasium/Hall is underway and due to be completed in August this year. As our college grows, we hold our Brigidine heritage in high esteem. Our 2011 theme, ‘In The Footsteps of our Founders’ renewed our endeavour to gather articles of uniform and of school work to display in our Entrance Hall.

Each quarter we hope to bring you another edition by email.

Our endeavour is part of the Community Liaison Stewardship Committee and supported by the Brigidine Sisters. I invite you to contact me with stories, photos or memorabilia.

Mrs Donna Wood
Principal’s Secretary
Marian College
(03) 5352 3861
dwood@mcararat.catholic.edu.au
Dear friends of Marian College,

Welcome to the Marian College Alumni newsletter.

In November 2008 Marian College celebrated the 120th anniversary of the arrival of Brigidine Nuns in Ararat. Their first influence on the district was to provide education to young people and that influence continues today within Marian College, which now educates in excess of 530 students each year.

There is no doubt that the Brigidine traditions have encouraged many young people to take interest and pride in seeking justice and democracy for everyone in our world. Former students have gone on to a myriad of professions, careers, jobs, locations and achievements. We would love to share their stories with the wider community of Marian College.

We invite former students to provide their life stories, contributing to create a ‘Brigidine Tapestry’ made up of people’s journeys through life. We liken the Brigidine Nuns to craftswomen, who patiently threaded their needles with yarns of all colours and worked diligently to position them within a framework, creating a picture that will be impressive to all who lay eyes upon their work.
Each student is a thread in this one hundred and twenty three year tapestry for which education is the framework. Whatever their story, wherever they go, every former Brigidine student has been shaped in some manner by the gentle (and at times, not so gentle!) persistence of the Brigidines. Marian College operates under the five core values set by the Brigidines, we are guided and stewarded by the Brigidines and we value the strong tradition that they provide us with.

Please consider telling us your story if you are a former student of this school.

If you would like to contribute, we would love to hear from you. Don’t hesitate to contact us at Marian College on (03) 5352 3861 or by email dwood@mcararat.catholic.edu.au.

We will value each and every one, for collectively they make up a huge picture that represents the ongoing contribution of those brave and wonderful nuns who made that incredibly long and arduous journey back in 1888, as well as the many nuns who were inspired to join their order in the years since.

What would you say to those adventurous souls of the late 19th century if you could meet up with them? Below are some messages from Year Eight students in the past who have considered this.

“We thank our founders, the people who created Marian College. Our values aren’t forced on us. Be faithful, welcome, celebrate, engender, image and practise. This is just a normal day at Marian. These values are in every single day at our school, because that is who we are.”

“I see and feel the hard work the Brigidine Sisters have done to make this school great. [Having] the courage and effort to leave their homes and never see their families again to make a proper Catholic school was something special.”

“Well, you have made a very good choice in life to bring education to this town. Marian College has turned into a very good school. You should be proud. Oak trees from Ireland are very special to this school because they have been here ever since you started this school.”

“Marian has been great for me. It has a great sense of community and I look forward to school each day (unless I haven’t finished an assignment due that day). I am not strictly religious but I respect the Brigidine Sisters and everything they have done for the school for without them I would not be where I am today.”

“I would tell them how amazing their school is and that it is the best school I’ve ever been to or heard of. Because of their core values, the teachers and students are kind and considerate to one another.”

“I would like to say to the Brigidine Nuns – you have done a great job in shaping the school into what it is now. Thank you.”

“I would like to take this chance to thank the Brigidine Sisters for establishing Marian College and for being so supportive of it to this very day. The care and love they have shown to the thousands of students who have gone to Marian College have been evident in the great things students have done in their lives.

In the words of St. Paul ‘Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly and teach... one another in all wisdom.’ These words truly describe the mission of the Brigidine Sisters, whose story gives me hope and confidence for the future.”

Trust our students to say it all so well!
Giving Part of All I Have

For me, a few lines from a ditty I learnt as a child hold a virtual guideline for the life-giving peace and happiness;

‘I never was a selfish child for early I was taught
To give a part of all I have, as generous children ought.
Not keeping it for myself, but sharing it with others….’

On New Year’s Day in 2007, my Aunty Mary passed away. When Uncle John was courting Aunty Mary he would empty his pockets of loose change and give it to my sister Norma and me.

One night he gave us nine pence. We skipped down to the corner store, bought nine pence worth of German sausage and, to the amusement of the storekeeper, carefully handed out the slices of cold meat. It was part and parcel of my upbringing to share.
In April 2007 was the 60th anniversary of my mother’s death. Norma and I were in primary school when Mum died.

I spent many lessons ‘in the corner’ because I was overly busy helping all around me getting the answers... (yes it was usually Arithmetic). I specialized in long multiplication and long division. I also helped with the parsing of sentences, geography and general knowledge.

In ‘Leaving Class,’ I did English which was compulsory but I am not revealing how many of the English texts I read nor how many of the Literature answers there were handed in on time.

Maths I and II were fun times and we answered every question of every chapter. Geography was enjoyable – my freehand maps of most countries with rivers and mountains were recognizable. I did not take to Modern History much.

I was not really interested in why and how Napoleon left much of Europe in ruins, then followed by Hitler. However I was successful in obtaining my Leaving Certificate which was sufficient to apply for Junior Teaching Training.

I studied Theory of Teaching Parts I and II while teaching primary classes at St. Joseph’s Primary School and the Brigidine Convent at Beechworth. From Day One I was happy teaching. The classes had a good number of migrant children and the joy of seeing them master the difficult English language was reward itself.

When I went to our Novitiate (the training program to become a Nun) I was listed with the Brigidine Training College and was registered as a Primary School teacher and taught at St Joseph’s, Malvern. SS Michael’s and John’s Horsham was my first experience of being a classroom teacher. The children were absolutely beautiful – friendly, enthusiastic. The one thing I did not enjoy was making gallons of ink, then filling the link wells.

The transfer to St. Brigid’s Mordialloc was interesting. As it was the area where horse trainers had stables, it was not uncommon to find Grade 5 boys reading the Form Guide under the desk.

Kilbreda College was a big step up. I began to do Matriculation studies
so that I could register for Junior Secondary Teaching. The three teachers who taught Grade Nine would meet on a colonnade before our geography lessons to agree on how to pronounce the strange names – eg the mountain ranges Vosges.

At Kilbreda I attacked ‘Leaving’ and ‘Matric Maths’ and Chemistry. I kept one chapter ahead of the students. Fortunately one pupil, now Dr Kathleen Nicholls, had an exceptional appreciation of Chemistry and was able and keen to answer any queries. Then, my first stay at Marian College. The enrolment was just over one hundred but the family atmosphere and concern for each other was terrific. I loved the boarders, especially the five o’clock study when all Leaving and Matric pupils stayed for supervised homework time.

In quick succession followed St. Joseph’s Echuca for one year, study at Melbourne University Bachelor of Science in which I completed requirements for junior Secondary Teaching, four years at Christian Community College, Maryborough, then Kilmaire College in Hawthorn. My second stay at Marian College witnessed the closure of the boarding school and the important introduction of the Stawell buses. During the following three years at St. Brigid’s Horsham I was introduced to computer programming – punching out holes in cards. The emphasis was on programming not actual using software which does all kinds of magic tricks nowadays.

In 1985 I celebrated my Silver Jubilee – 25 years as a Brigidine. I asked to go to the missions, our Youth Centre in Port Morsby called Maino Heduru (Motu names for peace and help).
There I spent the most fantastic time – teaching young enthusiastic people who did not have the opportunity for further education – tossed out on the streets at Grade 6. Basic English, Maths, Commerce and Social Science were taught through correspondence school.

For three years I was a member of the Board endeavouring to offer further education for those who could not be accommodated at regular schools. Fifteen wonderful years came to an end when it was deemed wiser to return to Victoria for health reasons. It was very sad for me... but look where I landed. Here at Marian College for a third stint.

Hopefully I have a few more years when I can continue to share my gift... giving to others.

In March 2007 I was honoured to receive a certificate for thirty years service in Catholic education. Maino Heduru is not known as a Catholic School and Christian College Maryborough is ecumenical – strictly not under the Catholic umbrella.

For anyone still following this saga, how good is your arithmetic? Yes I have completed fifty years of teaching and I am still loving it and still sharing part of what I have.
Sharing with you Cara Lovejoy’s departing words.

This is the first and last time I will be contributing to the school newsletter. As you are all aware, I will be retiring at the end of this year (2008) after 23 years full time and one year part time at Marian College, the longest serving staff member at present. Some people think I have been here forever! This is certainly not true, as I was 40 when I came here, a mother with 4 young children, aged from 5 to 11.

Sister Rosie Joyce was the principal and she was the first nun I had ever met and was quite scary on first impressions. Since then I have seen off her and two other principals- Sister Sue and Vin Feeney. Bill Slatter obviously realized he had to move on once he knew I was retiring, so he and I will be leaving Marian together!

Just in case you don’t know anything about me, a bit late now, I grant you, I was born in Melbourne in 1945, before the Second World War had finished. I have a sister who is nearly 4 years younger than me. I went to 3 primary schools, two in Melbourne and one in Hamilton, and attended Brighton High School (of Summerhill High fame) for all my secondary education. I did well at school and enjoyed school immensely, even though I did get into strife from time to time.

I did well in my Matriculation year (Year 12 to you) and got a teaching studentship to attend Melbourne University where I did an Arts Degree, majoring in French-yes, French- and
Mathematics. I also did two years History. So you can see I am certainly not a typical Maths Science student- in fact I dropped all Science at the end of Form 4 (Year 10). I think University was one of the best periods of my life, making lots of new friends and broadening my horizons without a care in the world! My studentship gave me a reasonable living allowance as well as paying all my fees. I was even able to take two overseas trips on this allowance- to New Caledonia and to India, Ceylon and Nepal.

I married just after I left Uni, at 22. In the next 6 years I taught at 6 Government Secondary Schools, including MacRobertson Girls’ High, which was, and still is, an elite academic school. Over the years I have taught mainly French and Mathematics, with a smattering of Art and SOSE. I resigned when I was pregnant with my first child, and spent the next blissful 12 years being a full time Mum, another great period of my life.

Not long after I started teaching at Marian, I decided to learn a brass instrument- the tuba, seeing my children were learning, and so we all joined and played with the Beaufort Band. I love music, classical mainly, and have always encouraged my children to appreciate it as well. It certainly is a great interest.

Well that’s about it from me. I’ve really enjoyed teaching at Marian, and have learnt a lot about what makes a Catholic School so special. I will miss the teachers, but most of all I will miss the friendship and companionship of the students. Goodbye and good luck!

Cara Lovejoy
Marian College, Ararat
Heritage Request

As part of theme this year, ‘In the Footsteps of our Founders’, Marian College is calling for donations of any interesting historical pieces from the college from the past 123 years. The purpose of this request is to strengthen our heritage collection at the school and to be able to publicly display this material for the wider community to enjoy. We are particularly interested in articles of clothing from past generations including hats, blazers, gloves, ties, tunics etc.

We are also interested in items such as Marian College badges, furniture or religious items. If you have some memorabilia that you think might be suitable and would be happy to donate these to the college as part of our heritage collection, please phone the college on 5352 3861 and ask to speak to the Principal, Mr. John Crowley.

Vale

Rachael Gration
(nee McGrath)
The Class of 1990

Rachael passed away on
5th October, 2010

Her husband Tim is a member of the Marian College Community and three of their four children attend Marian College.

Jason Bond
The Class of 2007

Jason passed away on
4th March 2011

Jason was pursuing a career with Victoria Police and he was in his third week at the Police Academy when he passed away.