

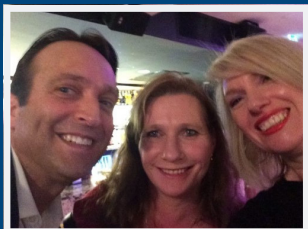


incorporating

Marcellin College Enoggera, St Benedict's College

Wilston, Mt Maria Junior College Enoggera, Mt Maria

Senior College Mitchelton, Mt Maria College Mitchelton



## From the Editor

Welcome to the 30-year reunion newsletter! Susan and I have been involved one way or another in the past four reunions and look forward to gathering together once more. It is said that at the 10-year reunion we talk about careers, the 20-year reunion we talk about families and relationships and the 30-year reunion we'll talk about ailments. I guess at the 40-year reunion we'll be talking about the grandkids!

The 30-year reunion is extra special. We uphold the tradition of holding the gathering at the school, re-visiting our youth with stories and memories. In a post on our FB page, it was mentioned what makes our reunions 'epic' is just being together... the power is within us!

Future events will see a significant change in organising and gathering people. The autonomy and power is handed back to us; we need to register on the Mt Maria MMC Connect page to keep our own details up-to-date. This is something Susan and I have instigated with Mt Maria; the school is the point of truth for keeping out details up-to-date. For future reunions, the Alumni page will have the details and information. The school will also send out information (your details will be kept private).

Anywho... I'm ready to party with you and look forward to eating dinner made by Alumni Donna, and taking a trip down memory lane together.

We also pay tribute to our departed (see further on in the newsletter).

All the best, look after yourself and take care.  
Kind regards,  
Justin and Susan

## Celebrating Class of 1989



### Excerpt from the 1989 Yearbook

"I have felt, and other staff have commented on similar experiences, a closeness and camaraderie with some students which means they will leave quite a hole in the College when they move on to meet whatever future challenges their lives will bring." - Suzanne Wright,  
Year 12 Co-ordinator.



# History of Mt Maria College Mitchelton

Written by Ray O'Brien  
College Archivist and Long Serving  
Teacher at Mt Maria College

Mt Maria, comprising the Good Shepherd Convent, Home and Laundry, was opened in 1931 as an Industrial School for girls. Industrial Schools for girls were homes "licensed by the State" for the reception of delinquent girls." They were for girls who had "offended sexually or committed crimes" with the aim of the home being to stabilise the girls' character.

The Good Shepherd Sisters had a history of caring for young girls in danger, who were unprotected and unguarded. Consequently, it is estimated that, in the years between 1831 and 1974, over 1,800 girls passed through Mt Maria. In its peak period of the 1950s and 1960s, in any one year there would have been as many as 98 teenage girls continually in residence. The Sisters also cared for a small number of girls with intellectual disabilities as well as fifteen or so older girls. Many were sent to Mt Maria direct from the Courts, some because they were simply destitute and had nowhere else to turn. The minimum age was 14 although there were girls here of 13 years of age and a few as young as 12 years of age.

In 1966, the institution was renamed The Mt Maria Re-Education Centre.

## A New Chapter for Mt Maria College

"The Catholic Leader" of 14 November, 1976, telegraphed further changes with its headline: "Mitchelton girls home to be co-educational school conducted by archdiocese". It went on to say that "A senior co-educational college is to be opened by the Archdiocese of Brisbane at Mitchelton in 1978, as a result of a decision by the Catholic Education Council."

However, a premature beginning took place in 1977, with Marcellin College moving its second senior class into the site a year early. The Marcellin Years 11 and 12 boys moved because of accommodation problems posed by increasing Grade 8 enrolments at Marcellin College's Enoggera campus. Refer to the family tree for a timeline of the history of the College.

The plan was to make The Good Shepherd Convent/Mt Maria Youth Centre site a senior co-educational college for students from St Benedict's Girls College at Wilston and Marcellin Boys College at Enoggera. The Marist Brothers were invited to administer this new senior co-educational college, with Brother Terrence Heinrich as the first Principal. This proposal was endorsed by the Mother-General of the Good Samaritan Sisters who administered St Benedict's. The campus retained the name of Mt Maria, and so, on 25th January 1978, the first senior co-educational classes were assembled at Mt Maria Senior College, Mitchelton.

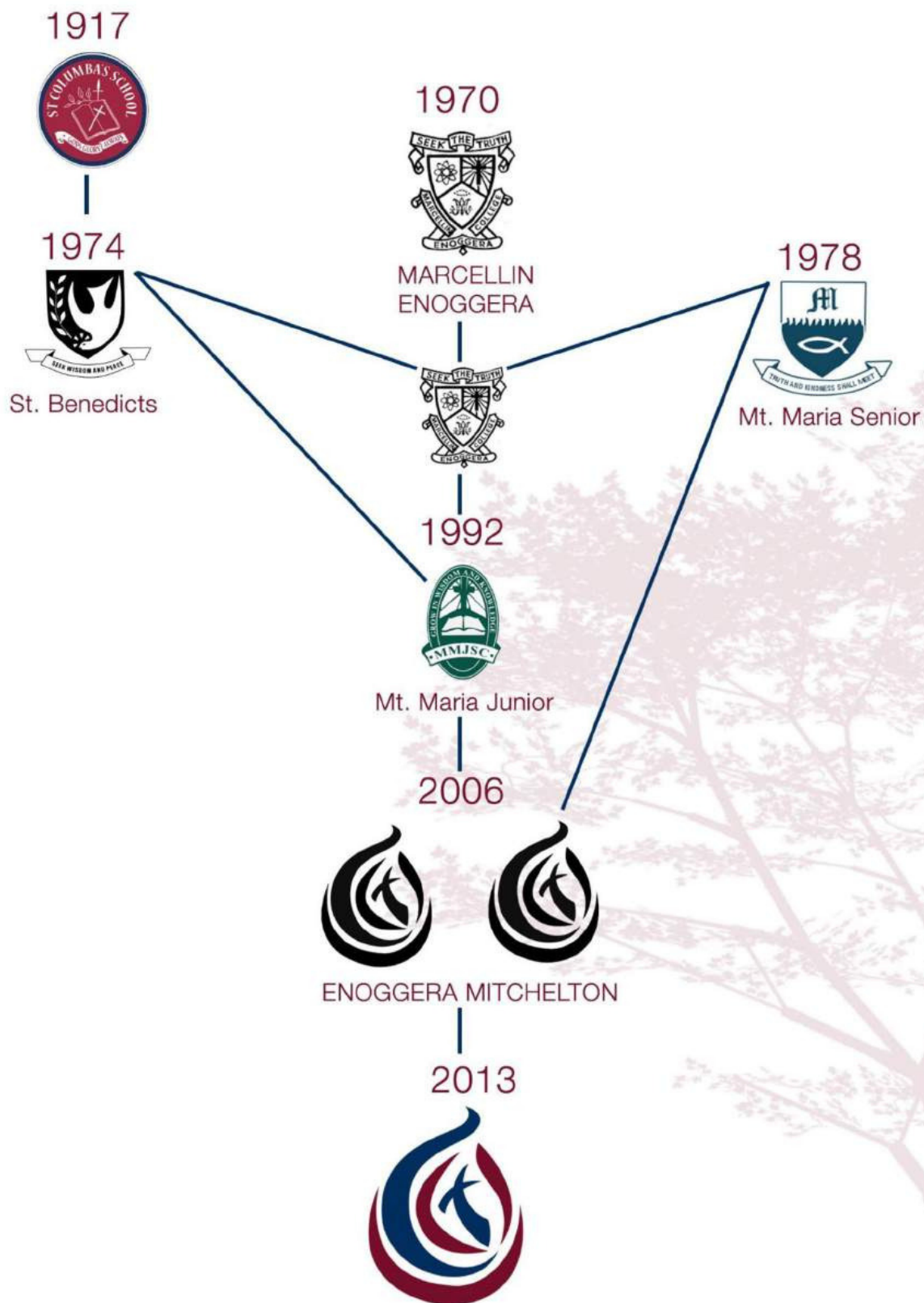
In the late 1980s, all three colleges operated together as "Combined Colleges" when competing in sporting events such as Interschool Swimming and Athletics. This served to strengthen the ties between Mitchelton, Enoggera and Wilston.

Marcellin College at Enoggera remained a boys school until 1992, catering for Years 5-7 in the Primary School and Years 8-10 in Junior Secondary, both schools operating on the same site with separate administrations. The primary classes were phased out during 1984-6 in line with Catholic Education Office policy of retaining primary education in parish schools. In 1992, Marcellin Junior Secondary amalgamated with the junior secondary classes from St Benedict's Girls College, to form Mt Maria Junior Secondary Co-educational College on the Enoggera campus. St Benedict's College closed at the end of the 1991 academic year.

Mt Maria Senior at Mitchelton and Mt Maria Junior at Enoggera continued to operate as separate colleges with their own principals until 2006 when one administrator was appointed to oversee both campuses. In 2012 and 2013, year levels were phased from Enoggera into Mt Maria Mitchelton; and Grade 7 students were added in 2015 in consequence of the Queensland Government decision to follow other states and include Year 7 in secondary school campuses.



# Good Shepherd Home Mt. Maria Mitchelton 1931



**Mt Maria College Mitchelton**  
Strong Mind - Compassionate Heart



**Dr John Coyne**  
**Class of 1989**

After graduating from Mt Maria, I joined the Australian Army, eventually transferring to the Australian Intelligence Corps. I've now worked in intelligence and national security for over 25 years. During this time, I've been an intelligence professional at tactical, operational, and strategic levels across a range of military, regulatory, national security and law enforcement organisations.

In 2015 I joined the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Australia's leading national security thinktank. I am currently the Head of Strategic Policing and Law Enforcement and more recently established the North and Australia's Security program.

Since joining ASPI I've conducted field research on Mexican organised crime, biosecurity, regional coastguards, border security, people smuggling, illicit drugs, corruption and foreign bribery, regional intelligence sharing and ASEAN economic integration. I've authored numerous research publications and provided expert commentary to media and news outlets.

Since finishing Year 12, I've dropped out of university (I quickly figured out that microelectronic engineering wasn't for me), quit the casino industry after 7 years, and somehow fell into real estate sales almost by accident.

As you probably remember, I was quite shy at school and still am to a certain degree so real estate sales is not something I'm naturally gifted at but I always had a strong work ethic which has held me in good stead.

I'm in my 20th year in real estate now and I've had plenty of enormous highs and some horrible lows along the way...I've travelled the country and been to many different places in the world as a real estate speaker and trainer...and I've spoken in front of thousands of people (which still makes me laugh as I was the most nervous person at school when I did any sort of oral presentation).

I've been ranked in the top 10 Internationally within the largest real estate franchise in the world and have been fortunate enough to have received many other awards along the way, but on the other hand, I know what it feels like to lose everything after being swindled by an unscrupulous business partner after 5 years in the industry...and losing everything again after going through a tough separation almost a decade ago.

In essence, I think it's made me a better person and I'm able to help people going through similar situations as I'm often confronted with people who are selling for reasons that aren't particularly pleasant.

I'm lucky that I've generally been blessed with good staff over the years and because of this, I'm proud of the fact that we've sold almost \$700 million worth of property over the past 20 years.

My company 'Innov8 Property' is only in its 4th year and to be honest, we haven't scratched the surface of what we'd like to achieve but these days, I'm a little more focussed on a work/life balance as I have 3 beautiful children that are 9, 17 months and 4 months old.

I'm also fanatical about my indoor cricket (I've only been playing seriously for about 5 years) and I've been lucky enough to have made representative teams and have played at National titles.

I often run into Mt Maria alumni in my work and cherish the friendships that I made at school.

It's likely that I can't be at the reunion tonight due to indoor cricket commitments but know that my share of the drinks will be well-consumed by all in attendance.



**Michael Spillane**  
**Class of 1989**



Zoë Boccabella is now an author whose books have been published in Australia and internationally and shortlisted for both popular and literary awards. Since graduating from Mt Maria, she gained degrees in literature, sociology and philosophy and worked as a writer and researcher for government, universities and the police service, as well as freelance. She married, has lived and travelled widely in Europe and Australia and continues to write non-fiction and fiction. (When contacted, Zoë said she has great memories of Mt Maria, keeps in contact with many friends made there and wishes everyone the very best.)



**Zoë Boccabella**  
Class of 1989



**Renny Puglese & Andrea Lanham**  
Class of 1989

When we were asked to write about being friends at school and now living together years later we thought who would want to know, but then it is a question we get asked all the time.

Wow it was 30 years ago when we were at school. Back then we didn't really click but how incredible it is now that the 2 of us are together after running into each other nearly 5 years ago.

Saying the usual hello, how are you, what you been doing, I explained I was looking for a place on the north side after my separation and then Ren letting me know the unit at his house was going to be available in a few weeks if I needed a place to stay.

So after a discussion about rent and times I moved into the unit, both of us not realizing 5 years later we would be living together with our soul mate.

Life together is amazing with the usual ups and downs as between us we have 4 children, 1 grand daughter and 4 very energetic dogs, we just wish we had run into each other many years before.

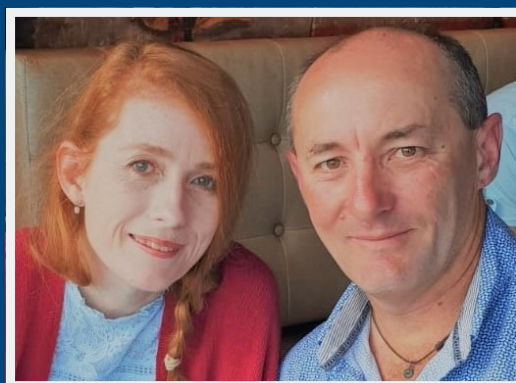
"Happy Days"

Michelle transferred from John Paul College to Mt Maria mid-year in 1988. To this day, I still remember her walking into Mr Cronk's Maths1 class, mid-class, on her first day. Over the next 12 months, we became acquaintances and then friends. In 1989 and with our formal looming, Michelle asked me to the formal as her partner. Yes, I know, sometimes a male needs a slap in the face with a wet fish to realise that is really going on. From there, our friendship developed on a deeper level. In today's terminology, we became "Facebook official" on the 18th of June.

At the end of school, I entered the Queensland Police Academy and Michelle went to Art College. We married in January 1993. Following Art College, Michelle went onto studying psychology. Like all married couples, we then juggled work, study and the arrival of our three children. Currently, one is in the workforce, one is at university and our baby is in high school.

During the past 30 years, life has had its ups and downs, just like everyone else's. But thankfully, Michelle and I found each other early in life. As we move towards "emptying the nest", the caravan is already in the front yard and my hair (or lack thereof) is already showing signs of grey.

- Mark



**Mark & Michelle Carroll-Walden**  
Class of 1989



**Stuart Sanderson**  
Class of 1989

I am a Tenpin bowler and have been doing it for about 30 years now. I started after I left school. In the last two years I have played for NQ (QLD is broken in two, due to size) at the Holt tournament. It is the largest tournament for the average bowler in Australia. There is one team from every state chosen. Last year the men's team came first. This year it was picked to go to the nationals in Sydney in October.

## We Remember... Tributes to Our Departed

### Gabe O'Neill

Like most of the alumni '89' I met Gabe in our first day's at Mt Maria. I imagine that I was not alone in thinking this guy is a character. He was one of the funniest guys I'd ever met, and continued to be for the rest of our friendship. Gabe had an awesome ability to connect with people and make them laugh. Gabe had a creative soul and expressed this through his animation, poetry, story telling, music & song writing. Gabe had a great sense of adventure. He was a wonderful friend and gave so much joy to so many.

Gabriel O'Neill 6th July 1972 - 7th June 2019.

He was loved, he will be missed but never forgotten. R.I.P mate.

*David Crowhurst*

### Peta Craig

Peta Craig .. we had known each other since primary at St Williams. She always had a smile that could brighten up the classroom and was always there to listen and have a laugh.

*Megan Phie (Hammond)*



# We Remember... Tributes to Our Departed

## Leanne Stirling

Leanne Stirling is remembered as warm, kind and generous with an infectious laugh. An intelligent and motivated student, on the Student Council and several sporting teams, she attained the highest TE of 990 and went on to the University of Queensland to graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science/ Mathematics) with Honours Class 1, a field in which she went on to work in. Leanne knew her life might be short yet approached it with such grace, humour and forbearance in her 25 years. She is very much missed.

*Zoë Boccabella*

## Melissa Davies (Rex)

It wasn't until after school finished when working at David Jones that I had the pleasure of working alongside Melissa. She was relaxing to be around and nothing was ever a problem. We were at the studying, working and partying stage of our life. Melissa was sometimes the quiet instigator of the fun when we were out and about with other friends we worked with. I recall smashing plates at a Greek restaurant and dancing on the tables one night at a work event, with her.

Sad to hear of her passing. Rest in peace Melissa.

*Tracey Milton*

## Nick Manabat

I remember befriending Nick after arriving at Marcellin. His warmth and generosity shone (as well as his mother's; it was the first time I tasted microwave cake). What really stood out was his artistic abilities. His ripped serpentine, muscled year 10 art canvas subject was far beyond anything us amateurs could achieve.

Nick went on to have a short but illustrious comic book career overseas before passing in his late 20s. Rest in peace, Nick.

*Justin Marchesi*

## We also remember:

Anthony Potter

Paul Childers





# Happy Snaps





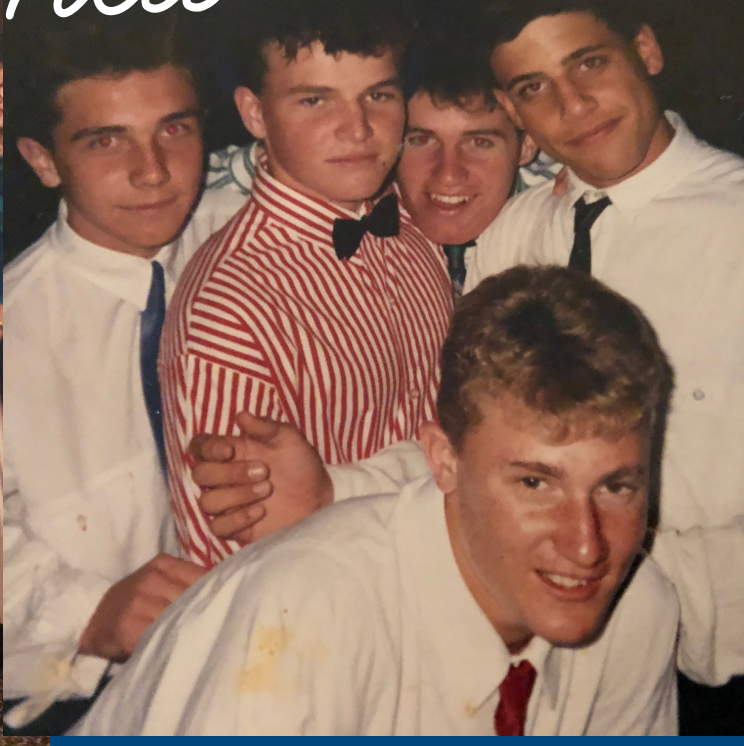






# *Class of 1989*

## *Formal*



**Mt Maria College**  
Strong Mind - Compassionate Heart



**Brisbane  
Catholic  
Education**

teaching • challenging • transforming



Before



After





