

From the Editor



I hope you all enjoy what is our first ever, Mt Maria Past Students Association Newsletter. We've compiled this edition from the stories and information shared by our graduates and teachers. If you'd like to share information for upcoming editions, please get in touch.

I'd like to share my story along with the many you'll read. Shane Maher and I were married in 1991, six years after we started dating. We have 4 children aged 18, 15, 12 and 10. Our children are following in our footsteps, all attending Mt Maria College.

I qualified as a Registered Nurse after studying at QIT, upgrading to my Degree a few years later. Midwifery was always my passion, so in 1993 I moved to Redcliffe Hospital to start my career as a Midwife. I have worked as a Midwife ever since, currently working predominantly in Birth Suite at North West Private Hospital.

Shane completed his Bachelor of Business while working in Human Resource Management and Finance in the Queensland Justice Department. Over 20 years later he moved to the Queensland Electoral Commission where he currently works. He still enjoys playing cricket, card nights, and Straddie trips with the same group of guys from Mt Maria.

We will celebrate 30 years together next month.

Madonna Maher (nee McGahan - Class of 1985)

# Celebrating Class of »1985«



## Excerpt from the 1985 Yearbook:

"The Graduation Class has contributed greatly to the growing traditions of Mt Maria College during their senior years. ....they have shown qualities of initiative, generosity and persistence.....their easy, relaxed presence with staff and each other.....have helped distinguish this class in both their contribution to and enjoyment of College life." Tony Harkness, Year 12 Co-ordinator.



# History of Mt Maria College Mitchelton

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 declared uncontrollable at home, others 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.

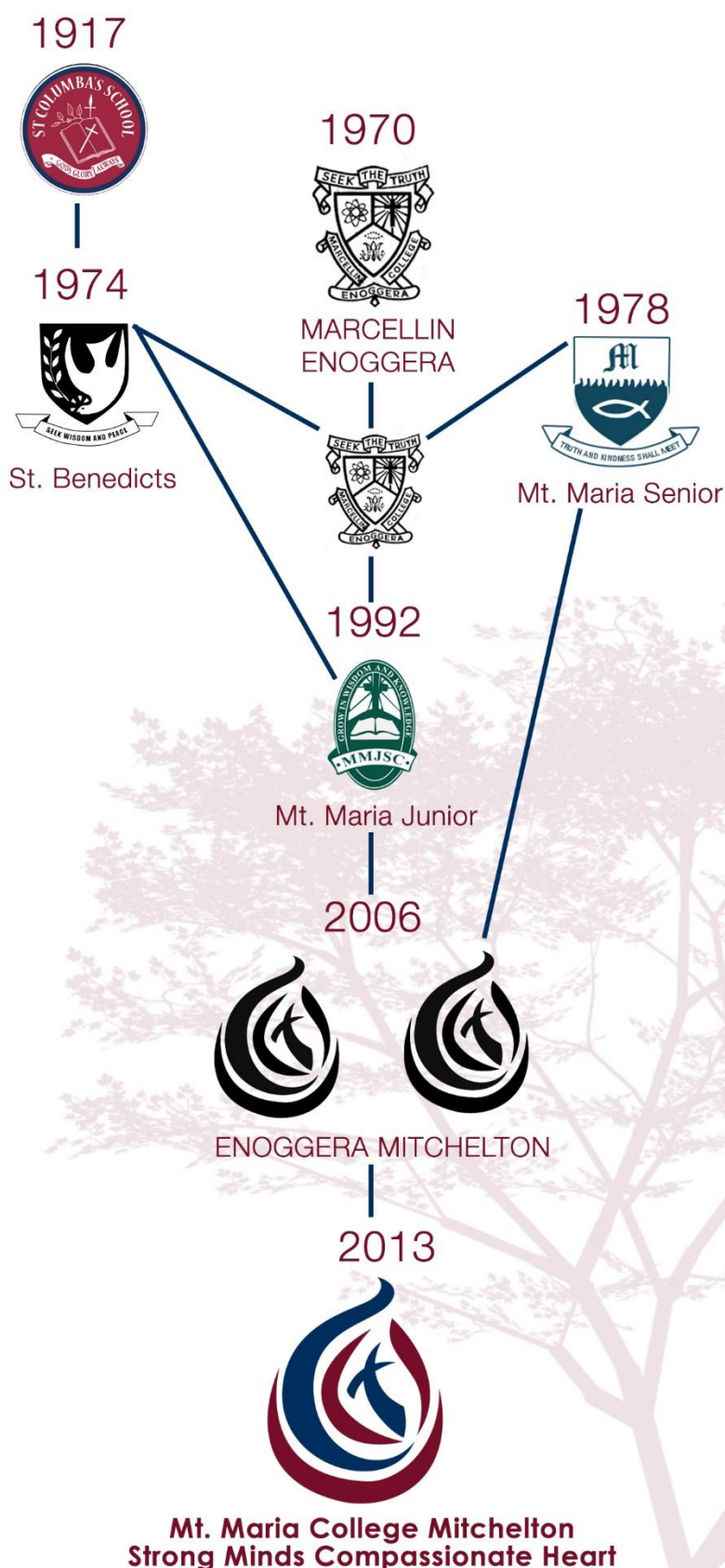
In 1966, the institution was renamed The Mt Maria Re-Education Centre.

## 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.

# Mt. Maria College Mitchelton Family Tree







**Br Anthony ROBINSONS FMS**  
**Principal 1985**



**Annie Wynne**  
**- Teacher 1985**

I am currently working with the Western Australian Institute of Sport as an Athlete Career and Education Counsellor and loving it! It has brought together all the things that I have done along the way - sport, careers, counselling and dealing with elite athletes. Mt Maria days were some of the best of my life! Since Mt Maria, I've experienced work in education - careers, behaviour management and student services and I also studied applied psychology and managed to have three thriving children, opened an indoor pool and trained and run in the Foster Ironman Triathlon. At the end of this year we are moving to Christchurch New Zealand where my husband Garth will be taking up the position of Headmaster of Christ's College Canterbury - the oldest school in NZ.

Br Anthony was Principal at Mt Maria College in 1985. He is now involved with Marist Youth Care and was appointed to Board Chair in 2001, a position he held for six years. At the time he was also the Director of Education and Welfare Services for the Sydney Province of the Marist Brothers. His working career has been heavily concentrated in the area of secondary education and included three appointments as Principal. More recently Br Anthony has moved into the position of Province Secretary which is an executive role with the Trustees of the Marist Brothers. This role has included the membership of a number of Boards and the learning that comes from a variety of governance structures.



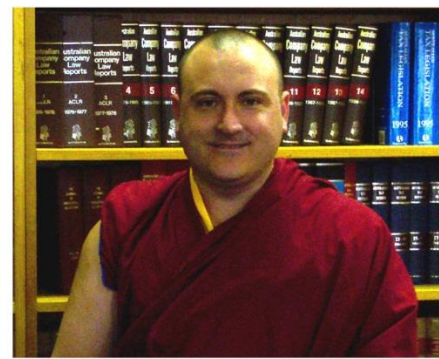
**Gayle Latimer - Drama / English teacher 1985**

Wow! 30 years...left Mt Maria Senior College and travelled around Britain and Europe for the duration of 1986. Returned broke and

single and went back to work at Mt Maria in 1987 as English/ History teacher where I met the very cool Maths/ Science teacher ...Jim Wilkinson (aka Ninja Jim). He finally consented to go on a date with me and we married in 1992. Continued teaching at Mt Maria in various roles including Creative Arts Co-ordinator and Social Sciences Co-ordinator until 2000 when I left to have our baby daughter Grace. Spent my time at home playwriting and one of my plays was shortlisted for the Qld Premier's Award in 2002. Son, Thomas James was born in 2003 and the following year, 2004, saw us venturing to live in Hong Kong where I taught English at a Chinese Secondary School and Jim studied the art of Kung Fu with a local Master.

We returned to Australia and our few acres in Samford Valley towards the end of 2006. Jim started his own Martial Arts School which operates in the Samford and Lawnton districts. When he finally left Secondary teaching for good I went back to work as a Primary School Teacher at St Andrew's Ferny Grove where I have had the privilege to be teaching the second generation children of Mt Maria's past students. Today, I am still 'living the dream' ....currently teaching Year 5, enjoying life on the land with my beautiful family and one day hoping to resurrect that budding writing career. It's been a fine 30 year journey where I have collected a few wrinkles, a few kilos and inexplicably turned blonde!!!

**Alex Bruce**  
**- Class of 1985**



After Mt Maria, I studied law at QUT. I worked both in private practice and for the Competition Commission as a senior lawyer and investigator. In 1996, I sold everything and moved to Spain where I studied classical guitar at the Conservatorium of the University of Salamanca. Sadly, my career as a busker did not then work out. After completing Masters Degrees in Law and in Theology, and studying Buddhist philosophy, I was ordained as a Buddhist monk and then joined the Australian National University Law School as a Professor where I teach Competition Law, Consumer Law and Animals and the Law. I've written five books concerning law and comparative religion and my PhD thesis explored Animal Law, Philosophy and Theology. Each month between 2004 - 2010, I also visited Junee Correctional Facility where I taught meditation, philosophy and comparative theology to prisoners. Recently appointed a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, I divide my time between teaching at the ANU and travelling the world speaking at Legal, Philosophical and Comparative Religion Conferences. The years 1984 - 1985 at Mt Maria were just great. I really enjoyed participating in both musicals; "Godspell" and "Once Upon a Mattress". I was terrified of Mrs Banathy but thought Mr Douglas (Horrocks) was the best Ancient History teacher since his idea of an excursion was to take the entire class to a Greek restaurant and then to read salacious Roman stories.





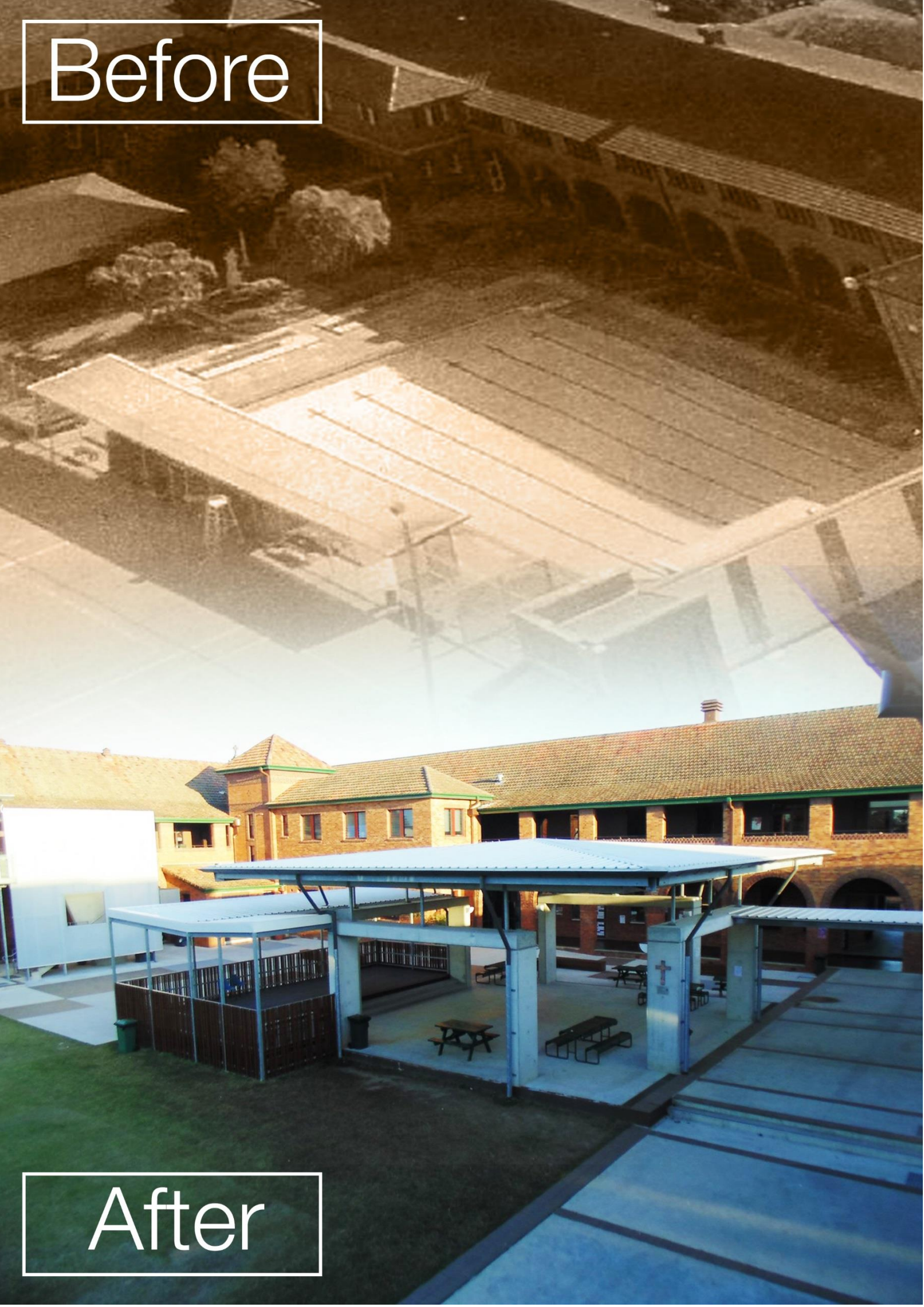
Before



After



Before



After





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## "I married my high school sweetheart"

John Cuskelly and Mandy McCarthy  
Adam Heather and Christina Mitchell  
Mark Wilomowicz and Manda Whiteheart  
Shane Maher and Madonna McGahan  
Ben Devereaux and Angela Benstead  
Michael Connolly and Janita Senden  
Victor Molinaro and Rosemary O'Brien

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## In memory - may they rest in peace

Chris Mann	Mark Van Twest
Paul Mott	Richard Zorzini
Danny Russell	Craig Pugh

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## Where are they now?

### Teachers

Brother Anthony – Province Secretary, Marist Brothers, Sydney  
Annie Wynne – Career and Education Counsellor at the WA Institute of Sport in Perth. Moving to New Zealand at the end of 2015.  
Gayle Latimer – Teacher at St Andrew's Primary School, Ferny Grove  
Noel Stallard – Bush Poet  
Cate Peterson – Yoga Instructor  
Mike Kurylewski – Artistic Director OBERTAS dance troupe  
Christine Ahlholm – Hospitality and Home Economics Co-Ordinator, Mt Maria College Mitchelton  
Tony Harkness – Educational Consultant, Harkness Consulting  
Brian Gagen – Retired from teaching in 1999. Produces BAM program on Hills Radio 4YYY  
Gayle Spry – Australian Catholic University  
Peter Myska – Retired from Brisbane Catholic Education in 2010  
Eva Banathy – St Josephs College, Gregory Terrace

### Students

Jana Abercrombie – Accountant for Construction Company at Milton  
Stephen Adcock – Computer Programmer for Shared Services  
Chris Agapow – Pilot with Qantas  
Paul Arnold – Rio Tinto  
Stephen Arnold – Banker in Sydney  
Annette Baz – Styling Consultant

Alex Bruce – Buddhist Monk, Professor of Law at Australian National University  
Anthony Butler – Dep. Of Justice and Attorney General, Qld Government  
Sharon Carey – Self employed, Shazbam  
Margaret Carlile – Teacher with at risk children, PhD Grand Canyon University  
Paul Carroll – Queensland Police Service  
Michael Carter – Electrician  
Ricky Chambers – Qld Fire Services  
Brett Clarke – One Path Investment, Insurance and Superannuation  
Michael Connolly – Teacher at Marist Ashgrove  
Leanne Costello – Assistant Nurse at High Care Nursing Home  
Bernadette Crilly – Networking Co-ordinator PCL  
John Cuskelly - Scaffie  
Matthew Daniel – Solicitor  
Mark Dearlove – Qld Fire Services  
Benedict Devereaux – Gastroenterologist Brisbane  
Gavin Earl – Insurance Manager  
Neil Fleming - Engineer  
Danielle Fitzgerald – Hairdresser, Works in own business Mitch's Auto Repairs, Hervey Bay  
Helen Fitzherbert – Stay at home mum  
Francine Garland - Accountant  
Pat Gerry – Optometrist, Newstead  
Jason Gibson – Comalco in Singapore  
Laurence Hallam – Primary School Teacher  
Terry Hennessy - Qld Rail  
Matthew Henry - Builder  
Sharon Henry – Registered Nurse  
Kelly Higgins – Radio Presenter, Afternoons 612 ABC Brisbane  
Veronica Hinton – Dental Therapist  
Donna Hockey - Cattle Properties at Surat and Longreach  
Joseph Jennings – Registered Nurse  
John Kelly – Optometrist on Norfolk Island  
Paul Kelly – Priest  
Stephen Lamb – Director, Innovations & Science Department, Qld Gov.  
Gavin Lawrence – Golf Manager, Keperra Golf Club  
Michael Lyden – Self-employed Asbestos Remover, Hobart  
Peter Magan – Head of Operations, ABX & Bullion Capital  
Allan Maguire – Registered Nurse  
Shane Maher – Qld Electoral Commission  
Suzette Manabat – Graphic Designer  
Michael Marsh – Mechanic  
Madonna McGahan – Registered Nurse & Midwife at North West Private Hospital  
Narelle Micheltmore – Teacher at Mt Maria College  
Victor Monilaro – Police Officer  
Cathy Morgan - Registered Nurse & Midwife, Dubbo Hospital  
Giovanna Morgante – Secondary School Teacher & Artist  
Lisa Morrissy – Student Services at Mt Maria College  
Greg Munro – Coke a Cola Amatil, Gold Coast  
Sandra Netto – Acting Senior Applications Specialist, Qld Health  
Rosemary O'Brien – Police Officer  
Josephine O'Connor – Teacher in Ipswich  
Brendan O'Reilly – Hospital Administration, QE2 Hospital  
Kevin Peart – Teacher at Padua College  
Clinton Peters – Paramedic  
Andrew Plackett - Pilot with Qantas  
Craig Riordan - Electrician  
Nicole Roney – Lecturer at QIBT, Griffith University  
Janita Senden - Teacher  
Darren Smart – General Manager, Information Technology, Dialog at Milton  
Brian Taylor – Solicitor, Sydney  
Andrew Timms – Qld Police Service  
Louise Volk - Actuary  
Danielle Webster – Associate Director, Macquarie Bank Sydney  
Angelique Welter – Teacher, PhD Candidate UQ  
Mark Whelan – Director, Qld Health  
Craig Whitehead – Director of Performing Arts, Western Australia  
Melinda Wilson- Registered Nurse at Qld Health



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