

From the Editor



It's time for the Class of '86 to celebrate our 30 year reunion, so we have dedicated a few articles to commemorate the class mates and teachers of that year.

A lot has changed in that time, both to us and the school. We felt it quite fitting to come back to where we started our young adult lives to celebrate the changes that have happened, and to reacquire ourselves with the school and each other.

With that in mind a little about myself. Since leaving Mt Maria, I studied at QUT in a Bachelor of Teaching, but did not finish the course. I realised teaching is a calling and it wasn't calling me. I moved into sales and have had various roles over 30 years including time with Mars Confectionery, Bayer and recently ENT Technologies. I feel the skills I learned at school in drama gave me a great ability to communicate and have lead to me having a successful career.

On a personal note I married an amazing lady Gayle in 1995 and we have had three beautiful children. Unfortunately our middle child Hannah was born three month's premature at 390 grams and passed away after fighting hard in hospital for seven months. In the full circle of life, my eldest Connor is currently in Year 11 at Mt Maria and his younger sister Sarah will be coming though in a few years.

I am very much looking forward to our reunion and reconnecting with our amazing cohort and hopefully you will enjoy reading a few stories of the varied lives we have all lived up till this point.

Regards,
Craig Young
Students – 1986

Celebrating Class of »1986«



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.

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 Terence 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.

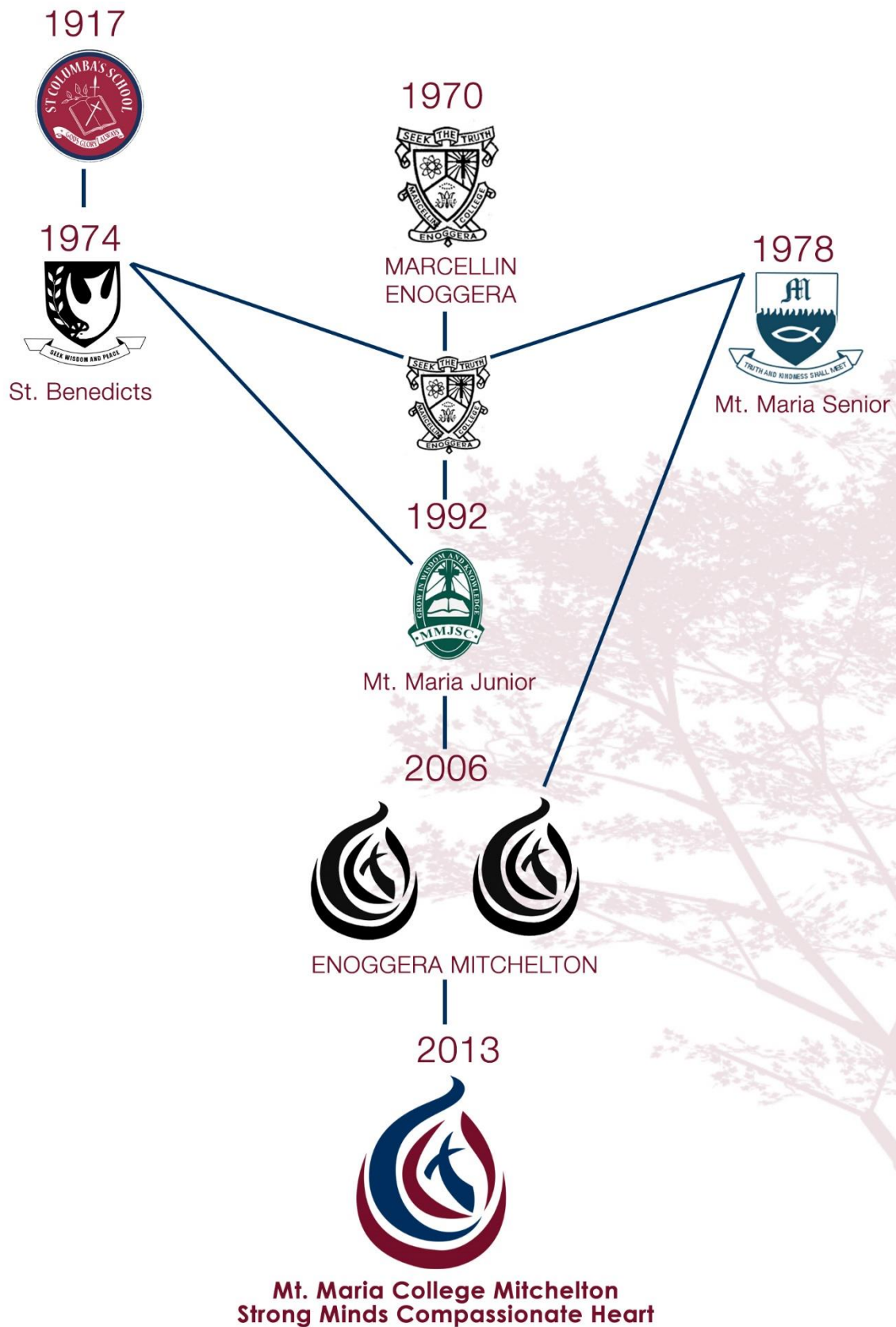
Marcellin College at Enoggera remained a boys school until 1992, catering for Years 5-7 in the Primary School and Years 8-10 in Junior Secondary, both schools operating on the same site with separate administrations. The primary classes were phased out during 1984-6 in line with Catholic Education Office 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.

Written by Ray O’Brien
College Archivist and Long serving
Teacher at Mt Maria College



Good Sheperd Home Mt. Maria Mitchelton 1931





Cate Paterson
Drama Teacher – 1986

I left Mt Maria in 1987, just in time to give birth to my first child, a son, who has just married! I also have a daughter. I remain married to my best friend after 32 years.

In addition to nurturing my family, I have been lucky enough to have a varied career, one that enabled me to find that elusive family/work balance. I have worked as the public relations and events coordinator at a girls school. I wrote and delivered a series of lectures to adolescent girls on motivation and study skills. From there, I worked with a company that taught speed reading workshops to corporations.

Knowing how challenging it is to survive those teenage years (watching my Mt Maria students), I was lucky enough to be able to retire from the workforce while my own children navigated their adolescence.

I turned 50 and decided to step way out of my comfort zone and worked as a life model! But my passion has been practicing yoga and meditation. Combining these with teaching was the next logical step. I now work as a yoga therapist from home and love it!

I married my high school sweetheart

Terese reckons after seeing me for the first time on day one of year eleven, she told Roberta Connors she was going to marry me! I wasn't an advocate of love at first sight and tried to run the other direction. Until one fateful evening at Expo '88, when we commenced our destiny together.

We married December '94 just before heading over to Europe to chase my motorcycle racing dream. Little did we realise we wouldn't return to live in Australia for another 17 years, after residing in Italy and England.

The longer we stayed somewhere, the deeper our roots grew and the harder it was to leave. However we always wanted our children Adam and Olivia, (now 17 & 12) to experience growing up in Australia. In 2011 we returned to Oz with our two 'Pommie' kids and settled very happily in Nhulunbuy (Gove), Northern Territory.

Brenden Marchesi



Terese Blakeley-Smith
and Brenden Marchesi
Students – 1986



Brian Gagen
Teacher – 1986

Radio Announcer 2016

After spending 40 years teaching in Catholic schools - and some golden years at Mt Maria College (especially with the class of 1986!), Brian was encouraged by Pat Tunny (our Founding Father!) to get involved in producing a program - hence was born, eventually the BAM Program. Brian is delighted to be part of 4YYY as it takes a more modern shape and ventures into new directions. He sees the 4YYY group as a positive, energetic force in our local community with the potential of finding creative ways of serving the Hill Country. He sees us as being most fortunate in having a group of talented, resourceful people prepared to bring their expertise to the task. Brian's program reflects Brian's lifelong interest in Church matters, Christian spirituality and the long and complex human journey into faith, hope, charity and compassion! He calls it Brian and his Mates - and introduces insights from an impressive range of writers; theologians, social commentators, reviews, etc



Before



After

Before



After





**Mark Shakhovskoy,
Teacher – 1986**

Thirty Years, one hundred and twenty seasons, and still gazing in wonder!

There has been the paint add that has taken my fancy recently. I mean the one where the painter stands in awe as he considers his lovely work and is eventually mistaken as a statue by the new owners. He has watched the seasons of growth come and go with his young family moving to adulthood and stands rooted to the spot in wonder. After watching thirty three graduating classes I am still in awe of marvelous vocation that I serve. I consider myself one of the most blessed people in education. I have had the good fortune of being part of and worked with the most amazing people you could meet. It all started at Mt Maria where the admin had employed a rich, diverse and eclectic staff and mixed it with a brilliant set of young people. They were heady days of senior education with much laughter, challenge and the occasional tears in the middle of an explosion of energy. After fifteen years at the "Mount" I moved on to St Columban's at Caboolture. A newly

shifted College with challenge to grow and reinvent itself made for an exciting next ten years. Again amazing people gathered and work was real and meaningful. My last adventure has been at St Eugene's at Burpengary. In the last seven years the task was to invent and build a secondary component on a successful primary school. Once again extraordinary people gathered and the work has been terrific. Three golden periods in a work life is a remarkable blessing and I am truly grateful to use the skills that Mt Maria forged in a young teacher so many years ago! Thanks for the opportunity to love and serve and I am still energised by the new life stories that emerge in every new cohort.

I have been working my entire adult life in the fields of hospitality, sport and recreation but, just recently, I finally found my calling. Well, actually, it found me. When my daughter was 5, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes - a chronic, lifelong illness. Our world crashed around us for a while but then I decided that the best way to live with this nasty beast was to embrace it.

I became a volunteer with JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), I set up a support group for parents of children with type 1 diabetes in Queensland and I set out to learn everything that I could about the disease, treatment options, research etc.

For many years, I spent my days and nights helping other parents. And now, I get paid to do just that. I work for a company that provides insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors for people with type 1 diabetes. How blessed am I?

I also like to raise funds for type 1 charities. We walk, we ride, we trek, we even jump out of perfectly good planes. And we live with great purpose.

Life may have thrown lemons but it's ok. I have tequila and salt



**Catherine Forbes
(nee McGahan)
Student - 1986**

In memory - may they rest in peace

Dean DuPayne

Michael Bourke