



Arma Lucis

Mount St Joseph Newsletter for Ex-Students and Friends

Edition 4 — July 2009

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to July 2009 edition of ALESA.

On behalf of ALESA's Committee, I would like to sincerely welcome this year 87 new girls to ALESA Ex-Students Association. These are the girls who left school in 2008.

2009 is proving to be a very exciting year with the Mt St Joseph's (MSJ) 50th Reunion Jubilee to be held on the weekend of 20/21 March 2010. Invitations have been sent out by mail to 803 ex-students on the ALESA database. This is a memorable occasion with three events taking place over the weekend. Saturday afternoon is open day at MSJ school from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This will be followed by the Reunion Jubilee Dinner Saturday evening at the Bayside Gallery, Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney. On Sunday there will be a celebration Mass at St Mary's Cathedral commencing at 2:30pm. The Jubilee weekend will make our life journey a memorable event. The numbers for the Reunion Jubilee Dinner are slowly coming in. If you have not advised that you will be attending or if you know others from MSJ that are not aware of the Jubilee, you are welcome to forward on the newsletter.

The ALESA database continues to grow from word of mouth or notification through our email address of msjalesa@gmail.com. For present members, if you have changed your address details, ie email or postal address, could you please advise.

In this Edition of ALESA, you will also find:

- ◆ Contact details for ALESA;
- ◆ Up and coming Events;
- ◆ Interesting story on "Where are we now" from Belinda Giudice.; and
- ◆ Ex Students Reunions

Our next ALESA Committee Meeting is Tuesday 11th August commencing at 7:00pm at the school and we look forward to welcoming any new faces or hearing from you with some valuable feedback.

Kind regards and God Bless.

Judy Walshe (nee Costello)
Class of 1963

CONTACT US

Arma Lucis Ex-Students Association (ALESA)

Telephone: (02) 8724 6200

Mail: 273 Horsely Rd Milperra NSW
2214

Email: msjalesa@gmail.com

Website: www.msj.nsw.edu.au

Did you know MSJ is turning 50
in 2010!

Celebrations will be in style!



EVENTS

2009 - Is the Centenary Year of Blessed Mary MacKillop where we will mark the 100th year of her passing this August 8th.

Celebrations will be held at Mount Street at North Sydney, (the final resting place of Mary MacKillop) as well as St Mary's Cathedral. For specific details please contact the MSJ school office closer to the 8th of August or go to the ALESA (Arma Lucis Ex Students Association) website at www.alesa@msj.nsw.edu.au or www.sosj.org (Sisters of St Joseph website)

2010 - is the 50th Jubilee Year for MSJ and promises to be a great year of recollection and celebration for past and present students, staff, Sisters of St Joseph and their many families and stakeholders of our community.

◆ Dates for your diary include:
Saturday: 20th March Open Day, Presentation of the Story of MSJ and student work - on site at Milperra from 10.00am.

Saturday: 20th March 50th Jubilee Dinner at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre from 6.30pm. Tickets now on sale: tel—(02) 8724 6225

Sunday: 21st March 50th Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving at St Mary's

Cathedral, Sydney from 2.30pm.
Sunday 15th November ...Annual Ex-students Mass of Thanksgiving (for all years and their families) at the MSJ Chapel from 2pm.

For more details , updates, invitations & coming events for ex-students and their families, check the ALESA website at www.alesa@msj.nsw.edu.au

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Belinda Giudice – MSJ 1990 – 1993

My name is Belinda Giudice and I've been 'volunteered' to be a part of this segment by my sister, who always has a laugh (in a good way) at my inability to do things without giving 110% effort. For those who know me, it will come as no surprise that my post-MSJ years involve sport and my career (sorry if that seems boring, but I was 'volunteered' after all!).

The best years of my schooling life were those I attended at MSJ (1990 – 1993). I think this was because I had a great network of friends, I had the opportunity to be involved in almost every sport imaginable, I had the honour of being elected School Sports Vice Captain and because I got to do great things as a member of the SRC. It was also the time that I decided I wanted to be a PE teacher. Perhaps it was those engaging Sport Science lessons from Mr Podevin, or could it have been the PDHPE lessons from Ms Clarke, Ms Spencer and Ms Hemsley? Actually, I think it might have had something to do with my involvement in judo.

I was representing NSW in judo by Year 8 and shortly after leaving MSJ (whilst at Nazareth in Year 11) I was playing for Australia and had completed in the Junior World Championships in Egypt. While undergoing a Sports Science degree and then a Diploma of Education at UNSW, I became the youngest State coach in Judo NSW history. I kept coaching for the next few years until I decided to focus my attention more solely on my competitive judo career. I was soon ranked number one in Australian and Oceania and my career highlight was competing in the World Championships in Japan. I narrowly missed out on selection to the Athens Olympics and have now retired from International competition after competing in 18 countries and playing for Australia for over 10 years. My fondest memory was representing Australia alongside my brother (Steve) and sister (Carole; a MSJ student 1992-95), with our parents, proudly watching on.

I thought if I truly wanted to be become a good teacher, it was probably time to pay attention at school during my MSJ years. I thought if I had the vibrance and pizzazz of Mrs Lawler, the rapport with students of Mr Vartanian and the compassion and leadership of Sister Mary Ellen then I'd be on a winning wicket (excuse the sporting pun!). I have been proudly teaching PDHPE at Merrylands High School since 2000 and I am now Head Teacher PDHPE. I have been fortunate enough to present professional learning at State and National levels in the area of Quality Teaching and Values Education. My career highlight to date came last year when I was one of 60 teachers in NSW (and the only High School PDHPE teacher in the state) to gain a NSW Quality Teaching Award for 'Excellence in Teaching'. I'd like to think that I have made a positive impact on the lives of my students the way some of my MSJ teachers had on me.

Like many graduates in my MSJ year, I've now hit the big '3-0' - so to feel like my age I've done some more traveling (no judo involved this time!) and I've brought myself a house. Earlier this year I became a first time Aunty. Despite living a constantly on-the-go lifestyle, there's nothing I love more than catching up with my MSJ mates. These girls (and you know who you are!) truly are friends for life. Too often we talk and laugh about 'the good old times', but they really were times to cherish.

All the achievements in my life so far have been underpinned by my supportive family and friends and the characteristics that were encouraged in all MSJ girls – such as persevering at goals, being true to yourself and having high expectations of what one can achieve in their life.

Thank you.



REUNIONS

2004 EX STUDENTS REUNION

There will be a 5 year reunion Saturday 15th August, 2009 at MSJ school commencing at 2:00pm.

ANNUAL EX-STUDENTS MASS AND AFTERNOON TEA

Please join the ALESA Committee and other ex-students Sunday 15 November, 2009 at 2:00pm.