



Arma Lucis

Mount St Joseph Newsletter for Ex-Students and Friends

Edition 2—June 2007

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Welcome to our first ALESA newsletter for 2007! We hope you're well and in good health.

Since the last edition, we have organised a number of ex-student events. As you will read in this edition, we had our first Annual Mass for ex-students. This is an annual event which we hope will continue to grow in numbers. We also hosted a lunch at MSJ for graduates of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's.

The committee continues to receive requests from girls who are organising a reunion for their graduating year. Maryanne Sayers (nee O'Brien) organised a very successful 20 year (class of 1986) reunion last year. It was held at the King Street Wharf in the City. Around 60 girls attended and had a great time catching up on what is currently happening but also sharing the memories of being an MSJ girl. 20 years is a long time, yet the faces were still familiar and many of the life experiences were similar.

We continue to update our website www.msj.net.au with information on events, the photo gallery and the contact us section with the details form. Since our last newsletter, we have been overwhelmed with responses to our 'contact us' page on the website from girls who are interested in receiving this newsletter and other school-related information. In order to ensure our database information is current, I encourage you complete the form on the website or complete the attached slip (back page) and return to us as soon as possible. If you have not provided your details directly to us via either of these options, we will no longer continue to mail you a copy of this newsletter. The school records and the ALESA records are separate and ALESA doesn't have access to the school records due to Privacy legislation.

Thank you to all the girls who have been receptive to the ALESA. We will continue to keep the spirit of MSJ alive through our reunion events and of course the 50th birthday celebrations in 2010. Please visit the website to provide feedback on the type of event you would be interested in attending. We are starting to plan now and need your assistance.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in future ex-student events, please contact us on exstudents@msj.nsw.edu.au. We warmly welcome the support of all mothers, daughters and teachers of the MSJ family. I look forward to keeping you informed and seeing you at future events.

Kind regards,

Karin Aguila-Yusuf (nee Aguila)
Class of 1990

CONTACT US

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exstudents@msj.nsw.edu.au

Web:

www.msj.net.au

Did you know MSJ is turning 50 in 2010!



We are starting to plan for the big 50th birthday celebrations.

We would like to hear what you think. Let us know how you would like to celebrate by completing the feedback form on our website.

Fun and Games Night

Everyone is invited to a fun night of games and great prizes. So leave the kids behind, pack your nibbles and drinks and bring along your neighbours, friends and relatives for a great night out. No one goes home empty handed! There are fabulous free giveaways, prizes including dinners for two valued at \$50.00-\$150.00, family passes to the movies, museums and wildlife parks. We have even thrown in a harbour bridge climb valued at over \$160.00! These are just some of the prizes we have available; there are lots more to win.

Date: Saturday 22nd September

Cost: \$15.00 each or \$25.00 per couple

Venue: MSJ school hall

Time: 7:30 pm sharp

Tix: Melanie on 0433 164 123 or school office

★★★★ *Early Bird Special Offer* ★★★★★

If you buy your tickets before or on the 31st August 2007, you will go into the draw for a dinner for two valued at \$150.00 at Platform 1 Restaurant, Bankstown District Sports Club. The prize will be drawn on the night. See you there!

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE



During 2006 we began honouring our MSJ students who had died while at MSJ. We decided to extend this remembrance by including past students who were now enjoying the peace of God. The photo tells its own story. To date we have a list of 42 women who have gone to their eternal rest. The list is displayed below and shows the name and year they began at Mount St Joseph. We join with each other as we pray:

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
Let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace. Amen*

Our next step will be to include a wall of Sisters and Teachers who taught at Mount St Joseph and have now gone to their eternal home.

First Name	Maiden Name	Class of
Shirley	Bremner	1960
Elizabeth	Flannery	1960
Diane	Foley	1960
Christine	Hawthorne	1960
Kerrie	Shore	1960
Noeline	Hayman	1961
Laurel	Dibben	1962
Helen	Moloney	1963
Janet	Pitman	1963
Susan	Porter	1964
Norma	Melham	1964
Christine	Wade	1964
Anna	Frisina	1965
Catherine	Spencer	1965
Judith	Chant	1965
Brigitte	Gastor	1966
Patricia	Hutchings	1966
Maureen Anne	Byrne	1966
Sandra	Young	1967
Roslin	Murray	1968
Julie	Allen	1969
Anne	Field	1969
Ann	Kennedy	1969
Julie	Neasbey	1969
Virginia	Phillips	1969
Marisa	Turacchio	1973
Ruth	Beynon	1975
Karen	Lythall	1975
Tracey	Bird	1977
Maureen	Junge	1979
Kristine	Murphy	1979
Anna	Kisielewski	1980
Sharon	Gray	1983
Linda	Clarke	1983
Belinda	Hickson	1983
Naomi	Meynezz	1983
Sandra	Peresan	1984
Michelle	Vassallo	1985
Tracey	Vassallo	1985
Elizabeth	Ryan	1991
Kristy	Campbell	1993

Barbara Bochat
Principal

60 SECONDS WITH SR MARY ELLEN (MSJ Principal 1992-2003)

Where were you born?

I was born in St Margaret's Hospital in Sydney, thus beginning a very long association with the Sisters of St Joseph!!

As a child what career options did you entertain?

I thought about social work for a while, but mostly I was drawn to teaching. I remember as a very little girl playing "schools" with my friends!!

What year would you most like to relive and why?

2004, because I had an opportunity to travel and to explore the world! Well, some of it!

What place/country would you most like to spend time in and why?

I have always wanted to go to Russia. I am not exactly sure why, perhaps it has something to do with the mystery and intrigue created by spy movies, but I think it is a very old culture and has a wonderful history in the arts.

Will you describe for us your favourite memory of being a high school student?

This is easy the first time I passed a physics exam! No seriously, my favourite memories are all tied up with my friends, the mischief we got up to, the camps, retreats and just hanging out together.

What was the last novel you read for fun?

"Secret River" by Kate Grenville

What was the last CD you bought?

"Jazz in the City"

Which book from the bible is your favourite?

The Gospel of Luke

What advice, phrase or quote do you live by?

There are no surprises here! "Never see a need without doing something about it" and "Dare to make a difference".

What colour best describes your personality and why?

Am I allowed to have two? Green because I am usually hopeful and optimistic and blue, because sometimes I am not!

If you could have dinner with any live famous Australian who would it be and what would you ask them?

Sir William Deane brought to our attention the plight of the Aboriginal people in a way few others in politics or leadership in Australia have been able to do. He brought to our attention all that is good within the Australian "personality". So I would like to ask him what he believes we must do to bring about reconciliation and a more authentically tolerant and civil society for all Australians.

What was the most mundane part of working as a principal and MSJ?

The paperwork! Preparing for meetings! The administration in general!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

JULIE MARGARET ROBBINS (nee Herring)

After I left MSJ in 1966 at the age of 16 years, I went into banking and real estate. I married at the age of 19 years and had two children by that marriage which lasted 20 years. The children are now 33 and 35 and have blessed me with 4 beautiful grand children, all living on the Gold Coast where my permanent home is.



After 10 years in the Pathology arena, I had a career change to Construction and also relocated to the Gold Coast with my children where I purchased my home.

Now I am in my 21st year as an on-site Construction Administrator. My latest project is a maximum security prison in Townsville and I will be here for approx 2 years and then – who knows where the winds will take me. My career has taken me to many places in Australia.

I did remarry after I had achieved my goals, such as real estate, scuba diving, abseiling, overseas travel, education courses, paragliding etc.

I have been re-married now for 11 years, my husband and I have travelled extensively overseas. I have slept beside the Canadian black bear and dog mushed in the glaciers of Alaska. I have walked the bizarre of Istanbul; I have backpacked around UK and Europe; I have trekked through the Canadian Rockies and I have danced with the American Indians. I have stalked a Moose in the wilderness and have relished in the cool water spray of Niagara Falls. My next trek takes us to Africa on safari and then into Egypt for a 'dig'.

I have been fortunate enough to incorporate my hobby of dancing as professionals - my husband and I are 'jive' competition dancers. We have had 2 dance studios and have danced all over the world.

I am very lucky to be able to combine my career/family/hobby and travel and thank the Lord each day for my upbringing and respect for the values of life and the determination to 'chase my dreams'. I also enjoy good health.

I am currently doing my Dip Bus Management and intend studying further for my JP Magistrate (a job for my retirement!!!)

I look back at my time at Mt St Joseph and realise where my true values of life stemmed from and the meaning of 'being true to yourself. My, how the years have passed but I am 55yrs young and NOT counting!

REUNION EVENTS REPORT

ANNUAL MSJ EX-STUDENTS MASS – Sunday 19 November 2006



This was our first annual mass for ex-students, held at MSJ's chapel. A small gathering of ex-students and their families attended Mass which was followed by afternoon tea and a tour of the school. A special thank you to Father Steve Monaghan (pictured with Sr Kathleen Price) from Panania who helped us celebrate the mass. Many ex-students had not revisited the school since their graduation and it was a great opportunity to catch up with other students and to see all the changes to the school.

The annual ex-students mass is held every year on the 3rd Sunday in November. This year it is on Sunday 18th November. Please join us; we would love to see you!

60'S, 70s and 80s REUNION – Saturday 10 March 2007



It was wonderful sunny Saturday afternoon and great to see students and staff from my generation. I graduated in 1963 and I hadn't returned to MSJ since nor had the opportunity to catch up with old friends. The ALESA association had organised a gourmet BBQ spit roast lunch and the chance to share all the stories from our school days. There were lots of laughs and stories that somehow came flooding back to me.

We had a very good response to the event (see photo). We even had an ex-student Penny Larken-Sharpe who travelled from Canada join us! We also saw some from interstate and outside the metropolitan area. It was delightful to see Sr Geraldine, the first Head Sister at MSJ, along with Sr Paul-Francis, Sr Carmel, Sr Patricia and Sr Honorine.

We encourage you to join us. See the website for further details for upcoming ex-students events.

Judith Walshe (nee Costello)
Class of 1963

SCHOOL UPDATE

A few of the sporting highlights of our students over the past few months have been Chloe Esposito went to the Oceania Games held in Japan. Chloe came 3rd in the Australian Team and 14th overall.

Bernadette Massih is the under 14 Tennis Champion for Australia. Bernadette was in the School Sport Australian Pizzey Cup, a competition that was held in Canberra.

Sr Kathleen Price

EX-STUDENT EVENTS

Saturday 22 September 2007

Fun and Games night

Sunday 18 November 2007

Annual Ex-Students Mass and Afternoon Tea

Saturday 24 November 2007

Shopping Tour

See our website for more details, closer to the event date.

MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION PINS FOR SALE

Foundation Pins for the Mary MacKillop Foundation are available for purchase from the school for \$5.00. This is an excellent way to give back to the Josephites after your education.

ERRATUM

In 1960 there were only 3 Sisters (Sr Edward (now Patricia Bartley), Sr Timothy Monaghan and Sr Geraldine Kiss) with 132 students. In 2006 there are 88 teachers and 994 students.

*"May the spirit of unity and love reign amongst us".
Mary MacKillop 1884*

STAYING IN TOUCH

We are in the process of collecting all ex-student details so we can stay in touch with you.

As you're aware MSJ will no longer keep ex-student details. All ex-student details will be kept by ALESA. We will then be able to assist with tracking down old friends and class reunions.

Please send your details directly to us via our website www.msj.net.au or fill in the slip below and return to us.

We welcome your feedback, comments and any suggestions for the ALESA publications.



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Return Slip

Return Address:
ALESA 273 Horsely Rd Milperra NSW 2214

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____

Maiden name: _____ Year left: _____

Email Address/es: _____

Comments: _____