

Lauram^{nt}



Edition 2 | Term Four, 2015

Mount Carmel College News



4 Three Pioneering
Women

8 Onward and
Upward

12 That's a Wrap!

In this edition

- 03 Principal's Welcome
- 04 Three Pioneering Women
- 06 Memories of Mount Carmel
- 08 Onward and Upward
- 08 Moving On
- 11 Mount Carmel STRIVE to make a difference
- 12 That's a Wrap – Terms 3 and 4 in colour
- 16 Spotlight on Staff
- 19 Our Community – Old Scholars
- 20 Tales of Talented Women
- 23 Important Dates



Every edition of *Lauramont* will feature an image of this iconic building. We welcome your contributions of front cover artwork, whether it is a sketch, a mosaic, a montage or clever photographics. Please forward your creation to the Editor.

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All contributions to *Lauramont* are greatly appreciated



November

The Movember Foundation is a global charity committed to men living happier, healthier and longer lives. Since 2003, millions have joined the men's health movement, raising \$685 million and funding over 1,000 programs focusing on prostate cancer, testicular cancer, depression, mental health and physical inactivity.

Seven gentlemen at Mount Carmel: Paul Boutchard, Anthony Chapman, Linton Higginbotham, Phil Hyatt, Kevin Lindorff, Dave McNamara and Scott Young, formed the Tom Selleck Appreciation Team with the aim of changing the face of men's health and having a bit of fun along the way. After getting off to a scratchy start, the gents' new facial accessories started taking shape and they entertained fellow staff members with their morning teas and paying homage to the one and only Magnum PI with their loud shirts

All at Mount Carmel have appreciated their resolute efforts and hundreds of dollars rolled in throughout the month for this vital and wonderful cause.

The moustache is perhaps one of the last vestiges of imperial elegance. It lends a man an air of chivalry. Nowhere have these thoughts been so truthfully expressed than with us, the Mount Carmel's Men of Movember. We embarked on a quest to cultivate the honourable upper lip flora on November 1st and have produced suave and dashing moustaches after 30 days.

Thank you to the Mount Carmel community for your support for this very worthy cause. Next year – bigger and bushier.

Linton Higginbotham

Welcome!

Our cover design of the first *Lauramont* issue, in July this year 'spoke 1,000 words'. As the original building of the College, with its sandstone bricks, leadlight panels and brass knocker, this facility is well-known to all of us.

Every day people stream through this entrance: staff, parents, delivery workers, students with a message or concern, visitors, prospective families... and each is greeted by the solid entrance, the weathered wooden door and the bright welcome that waits beyond. We have decided to maintain this vision as our cover for *Lauramont* and this edition's version has been supplied by Julia de Souza. What this image says to me is 'you are welcome here, join us, come inside.'

In contrast to this historical entrance, what is offered beyond the front door is very different. In classrooms throughout the College you will see technology being integrated into most activities. You will see displays of innovative and creative learning and groups collaborating in open-ended experiences - taking risks, posing questions, creating links between their learning and persisting in their pursuit of new knowledge. Outside of the classroom- in camps, excursions, whole school celebrations, outdoor education experiences and wellbeing challenges - students are being encouraged to develop team skills, resilience,

"Just because it has not been done before, there is no reason why it should not be done."

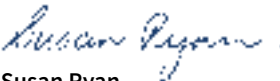
Mary Aikenhead

a sense of endeavour and learn how to interact respectfully with others. Beyond that traditional front door, possibilities lie - for learning, friendship, growth, knowledge- and so that image also symbolises opportunity, potential and adventure.

In this edition, you will read and see images of some developments recently undertaken to share the story of our faith traditions and enrich our Catholic identity. The visual and symbolic reference to the three founding Sisters of Charity in Tasmania through some beautiful signage and the naming of buildings coincided with the 200 year anniversary of the founding of the order. I imagine Sisters Cahill, O'Brien and Williams would be proud of and inspired by the achievements of our students today. It is vitally important that we keep the Charity charism and the Sisters' story alive for members of our community.

One of the qualities that marked the Sisters as special was their kindness and their care for the wellbeing of others; these traits are consistently referred to by those who were educated by them. Proudly at Mount Carmel, we continue to focus on that intrinsic relationship between student wellbeing, pastoral care and learning. My much-repeated mantra is that students will only learn when they feel safe and happy. Establishing and maintaining this foundation is key to all we do. In this edition, you will read more about the early Sisters and also about how that dedication to wellbeing continues today - the Year 8 STRIVE program we have planned to commence next year is an exciting and innovative evidence of this focus.

Enjoy this edition of *Lauramont* - I know you will - as it provides a colourful snapshot of all that is special in this wonderful College: its past, its present, and its future.


Susan Ryan

Principal, Mount Carmel College



Lauramont once welcomed these ladies as students, but now welcomes them as members of staff. (l-r) Anne Haward (Woodhouse), Rachael Willis (Barron), Susan Ryan, Jill Verney (Gardner), Sophie Roe and Norma Cooper(Rhodes).

Three Pioneering Women

On Wednesday 19th August, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Charity order in Ireland, by a remarkable woman, Mary Aikenhead.

During our celebration, 4 candles inscribed with the words hope, love, compassion and justice were processed in and became a beacon of light throughout our gathering. These words served as a reminder that as a united community, rich in diversity, and steeped in the charism of Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity, we too, can embody these values in our everyday lives.

It was most fitting that we had Sister Cathy Meese and Sister Anne Taylor to celebrate this occasion with us. Sister Cathy worked at Mount Carmel from 1971 – 1974 and from 2003 – 2007 and continues her direct association with the College as a member of our Board. Sister Anne Taylor also taught here for five years and was Head of the Primary School. She currently works at Potts Point in the role of pastoral care.

To mark this significant occasion, and in the context of our annual strategic goal of continuing to share the story of our faith traditions and promote it so that our Catholic tradition is enriched, the College sought permission from Mary Aikenhead Ministries to formally name three of our buildings after the three pioneering Sisters of Charity in Hobart: Sr M John Cahill, Sr M Francis de Sales O'Brien and Sr M Xavier Williams. These three Sisters were the first three Principals of Mount Carmel College/St. Josephs and we officially named the Sr M John Cahill Centre, the Sr M Francis de Sales O'Brien Resource Centre and the Sr M Xavier Williams Primary Centre. We are proud to recognise and acknowledge these pioneering women and articulate our heritage through the naming of these areas of the College. The strength and spirit of these three women continues to inspire us today.





Memories of Mount Carmel

There are many photos in the hallway of Lauramont that students, both past and present, have walked by and probably never given a second thought as to who the Sisters are, when they taught at the school and what memories they have of their time at Mount Carmel. Three Sisters share snippets of their days at our school.

Sr Jeannie Johnston

Mount Carmel... images come cascading, tumbling into my mind... pale blue dresses, white straw hats, white gloves, crisp Saturday mornings cheering on the Hockey Team as the wind from Mt Wellington cut a swathe right through you, musicals at the Theatre Royal and the Playhouse, Easter Hat Parades, Sr Martha's music pupils collecting and shelling walnuts from those magnificent trees that were part of the Lauramont grounds, scooping the prize pool in the annual National Puffin Creative Writing Competition, fabulous staff, loyal parents, hardworking P&F and former students who will live in my heart forever.

In January 1965 I found myself transported to Sandy Bay to teach Grades 5 and 6, replacing the much loved Sr M Nicholas who had decided to retire from teaching but to remain in the community. The day after I arrived Sr. Nicholas escorted me down to the old house (Lauramont) to check out my classroom and go through the class lists. Several Primary Classes were situated in Lauramont: Sr. M Juliana Wilmot (Grade 4), Sr. M Declan (Grade 3) and Margaret Dillon (Kindergarten/Prep). Sr Martha's music room was one of the two large rooms opening onto the verandah and Sr M Declan's was the other. MM Ursula's office was in the middle of the old house and my classroom is now today's canteen.

There were only 3 buildings at Mount Carmel at that time - the Infant's block opened on to the basketball court, the Senior Block, built by MM Ursula, was two storeys and catered for the entire Senior School and included the two Science Labs and then there was the All Purpose Room - choir practice, lunch time ballroom dancing lessons with Sr Juliana playing the piano and Art classes were just a few of the activities held in this room.

I left Mount Carmel at the end of 1973 and returned in 1980 until May 1984 when I was transferred to Queensland. The College Principals during these years were MM Ursula Smith, Sr Marie Joan Gough, Sr Elizabeth Dwyer and Sr Eileen Kean. Each of these women left their stamp on Mount Carmel.

In my first Class at Mount Carmel there were a number of girls whose mothers were taught by MM Ursula at St Joseph's so the link with the Sisters of Charity was very strong and for me, this was unique. These mothers were very active in school activities and very loyal to Mount Carmel.

Mount Carmel stands as a remaining legacy of three courageous women who travelled down to Hobart on the brig, Louisa to serve the people of the Diocese of Hobart almost 170 years ago ... Mother Margaret John Cahill, Mother Catherine de Sales O'Brien and Mother Eliza Xavier Williams - the first Women Religious to set foot in Tasmania. It was my joy and privilege to walk in their footsteps and to be part of their story and of the story of Mount Carmel.

Fortes in Fide!

Below: (l-r) Sr Janet, Sr Marise, M Ursula, Sr Joan and Sr Moira

Bottom left: Experimenting with Science 1962



Sr Joan of Arc (Sr Joan McKenna)

I offer this reflection with some hesitation as my contribution seems very insignificant, but as I am the short member of the formidable four sisters who grace the wall you have passed on many an occasion.

I was at Mount Carmel just for one year in 1962. I was very young, with only a few years' experience, but a science teacher was required, so I came very happily. The education system in Tasmania was quite different from "the Mainland", so I used to go to night school to make sure what I was teaching the students at Mount Carmel was indeed was right. I like to think that what I lacked in experience I made up for with enthusiasm!

During that year, with the help of a more experienced mentor, I was able to advise the architect designing a new Science laboratory. It was the first of many for me in my subsequent long teaching career. At that time, Mount Carmel was very small: there were just three brave souls in the Senior Biology class. Discipline was easy, although I remember depriving my home class from listening to the running of the Melbourne Cup for some indiscretion or other. As is usually the case with punitive discipline, it affected me most. At that time there was no auxiliary staff, so we did everything... and I clearly remember cleaning the boys' toilets being a bit of a challenge.

I hoped I would get back to teach there again, but it was not to be. It makes me no less proud when I hear what a wonderful place of education Mount Carmel has become and I am even more proud to have so many girls passing by our photograph.

Below: In her first year as Principal, Sr Maria Wheeler and staff in 1984



Sr Maria Wheeler

In 1983 I was asked to go to Hobart at the beginning of 1984 as Principal at Mount Carmel, then a Prep to Year 12 College. My appointment was to be for 5 years, this turned into 14 very happy years.

In 1984 there were five Sisters of Charity on the staff at the College and by my final year I was the only sister. Many of the very dedicated lay teachers had been on the staff for many years, in some cases had worked with three or four previous principals. I was supported in the leadership of the College by Mrs Annabel Crook, an extremely capable and dedicated teacher who was my Deputy Principal. Adjusting to the Tasmanian Education system was a steep learning curve for me.

The College Community was very welcoming. I enjoyed the students and in general found them responsive and very loyal to the College, even those who proved challenging at times. One experience has stayed with me, early in my time after I had made some minor changes to school rules I had a deputation from three young women to say they hoped I wasn't going to do away with the requirement that students always wore their hats and gloves when travelling to and from school. It wasn't the students who had to police such a rule!

A new building providing science room, typing and art rooms with a library above had just been completed in time for the 1984 school year. Prior to my arrival I was told that the old hall was to be replaced, so started the first of a series of new buildings and renovations and the purchase of three adjoining properties significantly expanding the teaching and learning facilities.

The early 1990's were very challenging times with the restructuring of Catholic Secondary Education in Hobart. In the interests of providing the very best opportunities for Catholic students the decision was taken to open a senior secondary college (GYC). While I supported this decision for the greater good, I felt deeply the loss of senior students who provide a special dimension to a school. It was a time of grief and anger for many in the community.

Fortes in Fide: Strong in Faith it has continued to prosper

Onward and Upward

Moving up to a new year level is exciting for every student, but even more so for our current Kinder and Grade 6 students as they embark on a new chapter in their education.

Although the buildings are bigger, there are more children and they are the smallest in the playground, starting Prep and Year 7 will be an exciting time in their lives.

We chat to some Kinder students and the Grade 6 Leaders about what they are looking forward to in 2016.

I'm excited about more sporting options. I'm a little sad that our friendship groups will be split up, but there are a lot of new girls starting at Mount Carmel which means new friends to make.

Grace, Grade 6



I'm looking forward to all the new opportunities that the secondary school offers – more art, more drama and more science. Although, I hope there isn't too much homework!

Jenna, Grade 6

Meeting my
new teacher

Heidi, Kinder

All the new toys
and games
to play

Grace, Kinder



Playing on the
BIG playground

Archie, Kinder

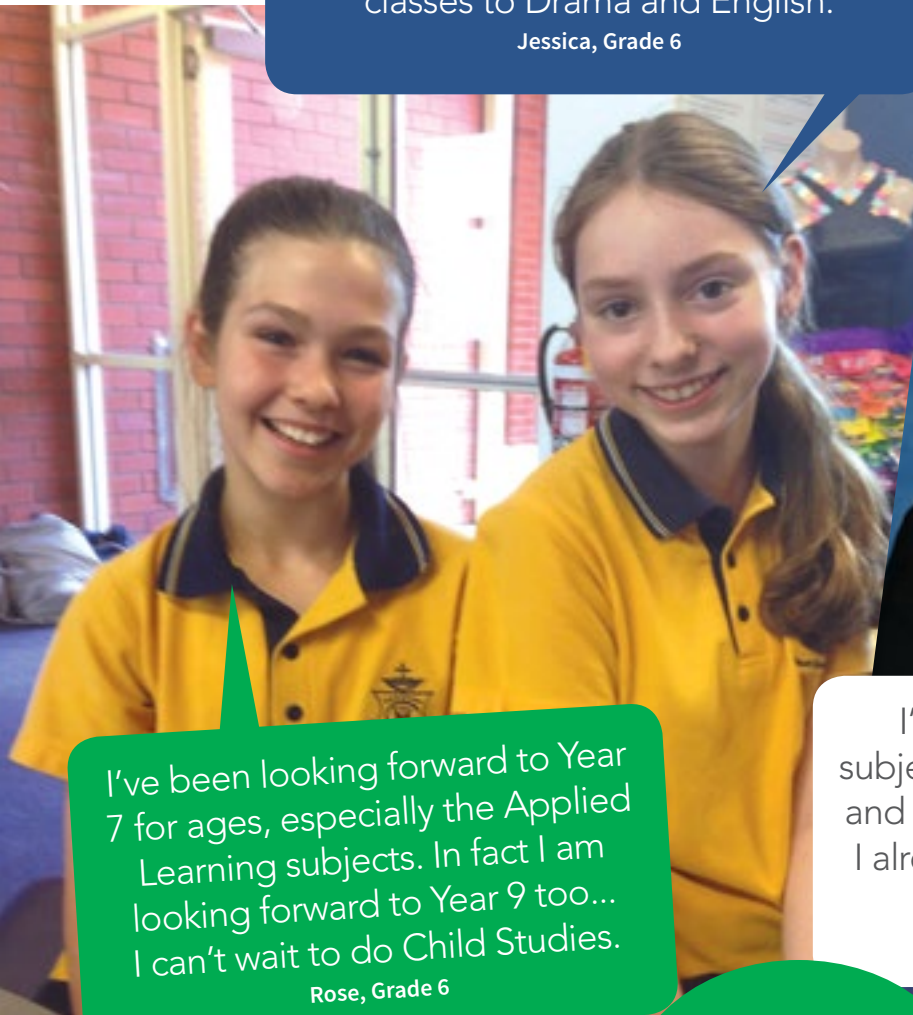


Lots of new
toys to play with

Abigail, Kinder

I'm excited by the prospect of having different classrooms for different subjects and having dedicated classes to Drama and English.

Jessica, Grade 6

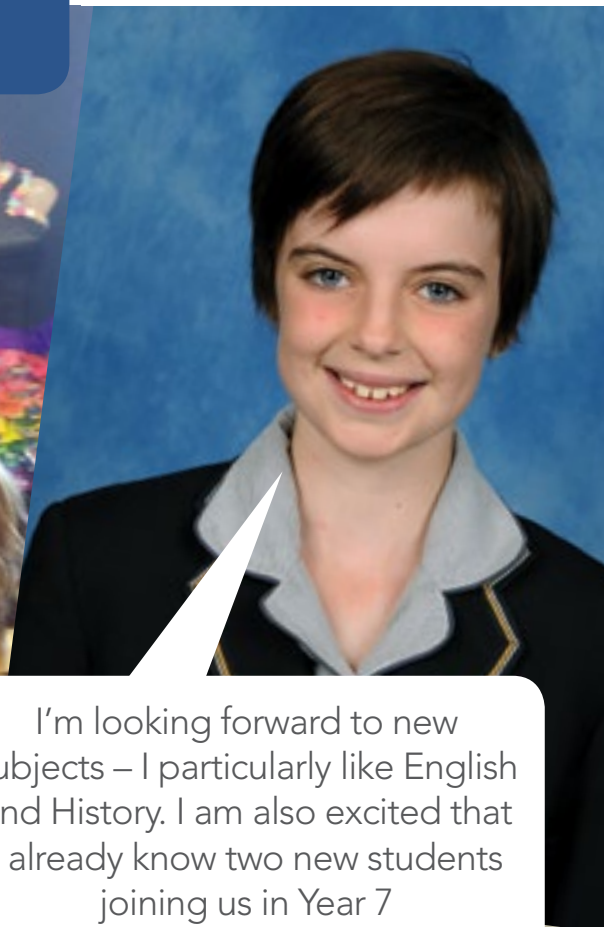


I've been looking forward to Year 7 for ages, especially the Applied Learning subjects. In fact I am looking forward to Year 9 too... I can't wait to do Child Studies.

Rose, Grade 6

I'm looking forward to new subjects – I particularly like English and History. I am also excited that I already know two new students joining us in Year 7

Jozette, Grade 6



New students to make friends with
Winnie, Kinder



My friend Lily is coming to Mount Carmel and starting in Prep with me

Georgie, Kinder



Seeing how fast I can run in sport classes

Millie, Kinder

Moving On

This year we farewell four Grade 2 boys, Archer Tully, Connor Read, Felix Gonzalez-Gomez and Max Grave as they graduate from Mount Carmel College. Connor and Felix have been 'Mount Carmel boys' since Kindergarten, while Max came in Prep and Archer joined Mount Carmel part way through Grade 1.

Remarkable and extraordinary are two words that instantly spring to mind when thinking about these 4 boys. They have 'led the way' in Grade 2 with their co-operative play, sense of humour, kindness and willingness to lend a hand. At any time of the day you will see the boys laughing and having a good time. They always include anyone who wants to join in their games. I'm sure it's tricky sometimes being in a class where you are well outnumbered by girls, however, this does not seem to faze our boys.

We will miss you boys, especially your ability to problem solve and your "techno wizardry." We wish you the very best as you journey onto St Virgil's but remember, you are and will always be Mount Carmel boys!

We caught up with Archer, Connor, Felix and Max and asked them what their fondest memory of their time at Mount Carmel and what they are going to miss the most. Here's what they thought...

Max Grave

(started in Prep in 2013)

I've loved Mount Carmel because I know where everything is – the school isn't too big, but it's also not too small. In fact it's just the right size.

I think I'm going to miss knowing where all the good hiding spots are - I'll have to find new ones at St Virgil's.

Archer Tully

(started in Grade One in 2014)

I think the best thing I have done since being at Mount Carmel is playing cops & robbers with my class. I'm really going to miss the Grade 2 Class.

Connor Read

(started in Kinder in 2012)

My fondest memory is playing with all my friends and I'm going to miss the teachers and the girls the most.

Felix Gonzalez-Gomez

(started in Kinder in 2012)

I love Mount Carmel because new things are happening all the time.

What am I going to miss the most? I think it would have to be the boy's meeting place and the boy's workshop.



Mount Carmel STRIVE to make a difference

Year Eight is a significant year for students at Mount Carmel College - it is the final year of the three year Middle Years program which supports students in transitioning seamlessly between primary and secondary school. Throughout the middle years of schooling, we provide a strategic focus on the skills of independence, resilience and peer connection.

To continue to build on these learning opportunities, the STRIVE program will be introduced in 2016. Specifically tailored for students in Year Eight, the yearlong program aims to give girls more control over their own learning by allowing them to explore and extend their understanding of their contributions to humanity and encouraging them to take positive risks.

The STRIVE program has been developed to expand the girls' horizons in their passage towards senior secondary school, offering experiences both within and beyond the classroom setting that apply to the "real world". The College is very conscious of the wide-ranging needs of young women at this age and the single gender setting and school size will be able to provide the foundation for the development of the STRIVE program. It has been designed to meet the needs of girls at this critical stage of their development – to challenge them, to engage them and to excite them about learning.

Our differentiated curriculum and positive education approach aims to engage and challenge all learners through a variety of teaching methodologies and experiential learning opportunities. It supports and empowers all students to learn and achieve personal excellence, regardless of their individual circumstances.

Specific features of the STRIVE program include the Being Well Challenge - a yearlong personal project culminating in a community expo, a three-day camp experience on Maria Island, a focus day each term dedicated to skill enhancement and personal growth, outreach work within the local community, mindfulness training and specific cross-curricular programs. Activities are planned to encourage students to participate with engagement and meaning in their lives and to give them the

Spirituality
Teamwork
Resilience
Independence
Volunteering
Empowerment

opportunity to develop skills for making positive life choices.

Our Year Eight teaching staff are very excited that the program will engage students at a critical period in their learning journey. Not only will the program have some central elements that empower them as a group, but also individually.



That's a wrap!



Army
Visit

Footy
Colours Day



Arts Evening



Grandparent's Day



That's a wrap!



House
Drama

Unity in
Diversity Day



MCC Got Talent

Fathers' Day Selfies

A Colourful Journey – Diana Buddle

I suspect that for many people there comes a moment, a time, when an opportunity presents which has the potential to significantly change the course of their lives.



Such was my experience in January, 1975 when Hobart became a divided city with the collision of the *Lake Illawarra* and the collapse of the Tasman Bridge. For many citizens daily routines had to be re-organised with altered transport arrangements a priority.

The invitation to consider teaching the afternoon Art classes at Mount Carmel was offered to me to accommodate the family needs of my 'old' school friend and Art teacher at the College, Lynne Beck and this subsequently led to my presenting for an interview with the Principal, Sr. Eileen Kean RSC.

Having travelled frequently along Sandy Bay Road, knowing of the existence of Mount Carmel College but having no knowledge of what lay beyond the front boundary of 361, it was impressive indeed to note on arrival the stone façade of the graceful, historic building – *Lauremont* – there was a distinct sense of history which was very appealing. This,

Around the College grounds today there are remnants of the sandstone blocks which were salvaged when the building was demolished – what tales could be told if those stones could talk

despite on entering the building, there being an obvious diverse collection of purposes assigned to the building – library, classrooms, principal's/ secretary's office and staff room – certainly a multi-purpose structure! It seems impossible now to imagine, let alone believe, that the staff room was located in what is now the photocopying room. It too, was very much a multi-purpose room!

The Art facility was my main area of focus. The creativity and joy that emanated from what had been the original gardener's potting shed and had been the AP (All Purpose) Room before becoming the Art Room is testament to the ingenuity and enthusiasm of all who braved this building with its structure of sandstone, brick and rubble. Around the College grounds today there are remnants of the sandstone blocks which were salvaged when the building was demolished – what tales could be told if those stones could talk



The College has, with brief pauses, undergone massive development over the decades and it seemed that for several years we operated on a permanent building site, carefully negotiating 'duck' boards to move from one area to another. A sign of changing times can be viewed through changes in curriculum offerings - remember typing and shorthand classes? - Science labs, Art rooms and the Library occupied a building which replaced the old Art building, then classrooms to accommodate the Years 11 and 12 girls plus their very own and much appreciated and well-used (occasionally abused!) Common Room. The construction of the Hall/ Drama/Music complex provided huge benefits, none more so than the ability for the whole College population to celebrate masses, assemblies and special occasions on campus. The days of the long 'crocodile' of students walking along Sandy Bay Road to celebrate feast days at Holy Spirit Church are but another memory. The College population had grown so markedly that no longer could all fit in the church together.

So many building changes, all undoubtedly significantly enhancing the educational experiences of all the College community and these will no

Mount Carmel
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Mount
Carmel is a
community.

doubt continue as needs change. I must mention the 'jewel in the crown' which is the Art building with its truly superb location and views!

Yet these are only the obvious, first impressions that are seen.

Mount Carmel is so much more than buildings and infrastructure.

Mount Carmel is a community. That is its very great strength and that is the legacy left by the Sisters of Charity to be continued by all who follow.

When I reflect over forty years it is, first and foremost, the people, the sense of strong community and the earnest desire to play a role in guiding the students to appreciate their uniqueness and potential that dominate my reflecting. It is the many Sisters of Charity and their dedication and very fine example, it is the six Principal's and one acting Principal, the many, many colleagues who have provided the most wonderful memories of good times and support and many whose friendship I am so fortunate to still enjoy, it is the thousands of students that it has been my good fortune to teach and hopefully inspire to be the best they can be, it is the parents and the Old Scholars who contribute so much of value and who are proud to maintain their links with the College; it is the people who make up the community.

My enduring memory of the time when I truly experienced an awareness of the on-going nature of community and tradition and history that are so much an important part of this College and that I belonged to, and was a part of, was on being approached by a young student, many years ago, who informed me that I had taught her mother. The student's name was Stacey Ferrario and I wonder if, or how often, Stacey reflects on her days as a Mount Carmel girl and the significant part that it played in her life.

Since that encounter there have been many such instances which leave me with a sense of gratitude and remind me of the value of continuity in building community.

I will be forever grateful for the unexpected change in the course of my life that arose through the tragic occurrence forty years ago and which has provided me with the most rewarding professional balance to my so important family life to make me a more complete person.

First impressions – Scott Young

Mount Carmel ... "Sometimes we can't see the wood for the trees"



Having previously taught at government, private and Catholic schools I would say that I have excellent knowledge about what makes a good school. Many educators write about the essence of a good school but rarely do they name a school that has the qualities that are set in everyday practice and that are ingrained in the culture of the organisation. So my impressions of my first year will focus on this premise.

Mount Carmel College is one of these rare educational institutions that is a GOOD school. Mount Carmel College is a happy school. The students are confident and proud. The staff are professional and hardworking. The rapport between staff and students is one of mutual respect. The girls constantly strive to do their best in all things. From mission work to House events and sport the girls willingly give their time and support for each other.

The Staffroom is a happy and dynamic one. Staff support and provide care and attention for the girls and their colleagues in everyday and stressful situations. You might say that all schools should have these qualities but rarely do they all exist at the same time. The students at Mount Carmel College are inquisitive and seek to extend their knowledge. Academically speaking and from a Sport Science perspective, most of the girls produce work that is commensurate with Pre Tertiary standards. Having said all this, and being a realist, there are, of course, some exceptions to the rule. But these are monitored

and dealt with promptly by experienced professional teachers. Another indicator of a good school.

Mount Carmel College offers countless opportunities for the students to challenge themselves within the curriculum and in extra curricula activities. For example: Outdoor Education – bushwalking, rock climbing, surfing and kayaking. The outstanding mission work - Breakfast Club at Warrane Primary School, the Huon Heroes and mission work in Sydney. The list goes on. I am looking forward to the Year 8 STRIVE program in 2016 which will provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum for the girls. Good schools are inclusive and provide care and attention to those who need that little bit of extra help. Mount Carmel College does this very well. Specialist teachers, TA's and contemporary programs all ensure that girls who need assistance are provided for, counselled and supported. Good schools have good leaders and the Leadership Team at MCC is impressive, experienced, progressive, professional, future focused and consultative in planning and practice.

So I think by now you have a good grasp of my impression of Mount Carmel College at the end of my first year here. Mount Carmel College is a good school.

Well done Mount Carmel!

Scott Young
Director of Senior Years

Inspirations, Celebrations and Reconnections

Old Scholars continually act as a source of inspiration for our present students.

The success of our Old Scholars in building upon their education at Mount Carmel to reach their potential in their professional and personal lives inspires our students to reach high and achieve their goals. 2015 was a successful year for many Old Scholars, especially some of our recent graduates:

- **Laura McIlhenny (2005)** travelled to The Hague after being awarded the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship, which honours the memory and celebrates the life of university graduate and lawyer Tim Hawkins, whose tragic death in Bali in October 2002 was a result of a terrorist act. The prestigious award allowed Laura to take up the position of research assistant in the Prosecutor's office for six months at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts/Law with First Class Honours in Law.
- **Gilda Sorella (2007)** who graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Law with Honours and came first in her class as an arts/law graduate, winning the law division of the Grad Connection Top 100 Future Graduates Award. Gilda studied an arts/law degree, majoring in journalism, media and communications, was admitted to the Dean's Roll of Excellence for the Faculty of Arts in 2010 and 2012, and has received the David McQuestin Memorial Foundation Scholarship (2012), Val Haynes Federation Scholarship in Law (2013), and the Golden Key International Honour Society: Asia-Pacific Study Abroad Scholarship (2013).
- **Sally Atherton (2008)** was named the winner of the prestigious Rod McGee Medal. The medal is the most significant national award in Australia for civil engineering students in their final year of study.
- **Alice Sandric (2014)** was recently announced as the 2016 College Captain for Guilford Young College, Hobart Campus. Her appointment follows an extensive selection process that included delivering a speech to her Campus peers, an



interview, voting by students and staff and recommendation to the Principal. Alice was formally presented to the Guilford Young College community at the 2015 Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday 4 November 2015.

Welcome to the Class of 2015

We welcome all the Year 10 students as they transition from students to Old Scholars of Mount Carmel. The Class of 2015 have been a genuine community of friends, welcoming of others and serving in outreach both locally and globally.

It is time to become an Old Scholar

If you are not receiving our emails or newsletter it means we do not have you on the Old Scholars database. If you would like to receive the newsletter and be kept informed of forthcoming functions, please register your name and details on the Old Scholars page on the College website at www.mountcarmel.tas.edu.au

We would love to hear from you and what you have been doing since leaving Mount Carmel.

School Reunions

Mount Carmel delights in old scholars returning to the College, or getting together whenever opportunities emerge. Because our school days are such a formative time of our lives, most of us have a deep desire to reconnect with our old friends and revisit our old haunts. There is real pleasure and satisfaction for Old Scholars in seeing how far everyone has come in their journey since graduation and sharing memories of the past.

It is suggested that any Old Scholars planning a reunion make contact with the

Community Relations and Development Director who will assist, where possible, in providing details of Old Scholars and the promotion of the event through our weekly school bulletin and the College website and Facebook page. To keep our database and archives up-to-date, it would be gratefully appreciated if any photos taken at the reunion, along with contact details of past students and teachers that are found by the reunion organisers, be passed onto the College.

Where are they now?

Class of 1977 – 40 Year Reunion

The date has been set – set aside the weekend of 11-13 March 2017 for this significant reunion.

Class of 1981 – 35 Year Reunion December 2016

For more details, please contact Yvonne Chaperon: yvonne.chaperon@justice.tas.gov.au

If you graduated from Mount Carmel in either Year 10, 1975 or Year 12, 1977, please make contact with Anne Haward (Woodhouse) anne.haward@mountcarmel.tas.edu.au or Karen Cupit.

Committee Members 2015-2016

President	Yvonne Chaperon
Vice President	Maureen Fasnacht
Secretary	Barbara Berkery
Treasurer	Liz Jordan,
Committee	Anne Haward,
	Geraldine Borghesi,
	Isabella Attwood,
	Libby Piesse and
	Norma Cooper



A Full Circle

Nicky Castle (Nicholls): 1961 – 1966

I began my association with Mount Carmel aged twelve, when my parents decided on the recommendation of friends that the school would be an excellent choice for secondary education.

Despite the fact that I was not a Catholic, Sister Ursula Smith welcomed me to the school and left me in no doubt that she believed in higher education for girls and that with hard work I could achieve whatever I wanted. Hard work and optimism were second nature to Sister Ursula, and under her guidance the school grew and thrived, and so did I.

Sometimes the journey means more than the destination

We nurture. We challenge. We care.

How true those words are today - and were also true, fifty years ago!

My abiding memories of six years at Mount Carmel are of the wonderful group of women who taught us every possible subject and at the same time showed us what a life of service to others actually meant. All this occurred at a time of great change in the Catholic Church, when previously held beliefs were being challenged and religious life was undergoing rapid alteration. As a practising member of the Anglican Church, I know that I could not have been the easiest pupil to have in a class discussing the Reformation, a view later in life confirmed by Anne-Marie Williams (Sister Campion). Sister Marie-Joan (Johannes) once told me in no uncertain terms in front of all my classmates that she thought I argued purely to enjoy the sound of my own voice. This was perhaps the most embarrassing memory I can recall, but she was, as always, quite right and I learned a valuable lesson.

In 1965 I passed the Matriculation exams and gained a scholarship to study at the University of Tasmania, but my parents wisely decided that just 17 was too young to leave school and so I returned for another year, ostensibly to improve on English and French marks and to take some new subjects. In fact, I rather coasted through the year, much to the annoyance of members of staff, but it did enable me to carry out the responsibilities of being Head Prefect. As I had a driving licence, I was sometimes called upon to take the non-driving sisters to conferences or meetings in the north of the state, and vividly remember the fervent prayers for our safety as we set off from Quorn Street.

In 1967 I began a law degree and studied at the University of Tasmania for the next four years. I realised quite early in the course that it was not what I really wanted as a career and so after graduating I went back to study for a Diploma of Education. During the next two years of part-time study, I was able to

Don't let our children become soft – says principal



Sisters Find Success

Rhiannon Jenkins (2010) and Brittany Jenkins (2012)

do some teaching at Mount Carmel before being offered a position at Catholic Ladies' College in Eltham, where Sister Marie-Joan was then Head.

After two happy years in Victoria, travel beckoned, and I took a year's leave to visit family in Britain and then to 'do' Europe. Romance intervened and I ended up shortening the travel plans and going to Sydney where I taught for 18 months with the Presentation Sisters at Nagle College. During that time I married my Englishman and returned with him to England, from where my parents had emigrated in 1948.

I taught in England for the rest of my career, following the birth of two sons. Special Needs has been my area of expertise and not without precedent, as both my parents had careers in this area in Tasmania. My mother, Winifred Nicholls, was Head of the Sight Saving School in Hobart before spending her last teaching years at Mount Carmel in the primary department. My meeting with the man I married and for whom I left Australia was also as a result of a connection with Mount Carmel. Sonia Johnson, who taught drama for many years at the school, migrated to Tasmania from Britain, where she had been a member of a village drama group in Kent, performing alongside my future mother-in-law, who gave Sonia's address to her son as a contact in Tasmania when he set off on his travels.

I had always thought that I was the first Tasmanian in our family, but having now retired, I have been researching family histories and now know that my 3x great grandmother's sister, Anne Beardsley, was a First Fleeter, sentenced and sent to Sydney Cove, then Norfolk Island, and eventually her daughter lived in Tasmania, marrying at St Joseph's in Hobart. I must have many distant cousins in the state, a fact unknown to me while I was growing up. Perhaps some of them have also been pupils at Mount Carmel. What a small world it really is!



Throughout our education at Mount Carmel we were always taught to never see a need without doing something about it, and we see there is a need to end the way that animals are exploited to feed us.

After attending a social justice day in Year 9 and watching a presentation exposing the living conditions and treatment of factory farmed pigs in Tasmania and on the mainland, our passion for animal rights began. Going vegetarian, and then eventually vegan, we soon discovered that we could lead perfectly healthy and enjoyable lives without harming others or contributing to the mindless exploitation of animals.

We had always loved cooking together and through our vegan diet had found that people had a very distorted idea of what vegan food was like and had no knowledge of the large variety of foods that could be adapted to meet vegan requirements.

With dreams of opening a vegan cafe in the future we decided to start our business in the form of a little food van, attending markets and festivals around Hobart - showing people that it is simple and enjoyable eating cruelty free foods.

Throughout our education at Mount Carmel we were always taught to never see a need without doing something about it, and we see there is a need to end the way that animals are exploited to feed us. Through our food we are trying to spread the message that living cruelty free is not difficult, and in fact it is just as beneficial to us as it is to the animals.

We currently attend events all over Hobart and our location and updates can be found via our Facebook page our little vegan kitchen, we are absolutely loving this new journey and have big plans for the future of our little business.

Great Expectations

Anna Norton (1998)

It was 1991 when I walked into Mrs Belcher's Grade Three classroom, a chubby and somewhat uncertain eight year old.

I had a big sister in the classroom next door, but otherwise knew no one at Mount Carmel College. To make matters worse, the blazer felt constraining and the boater hat was causing my head to itch.

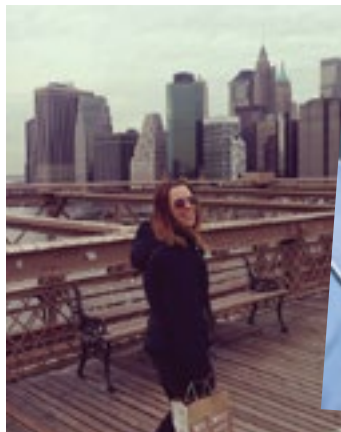
Those first few weeks were difficult and I struggled to make friends. Fortunately there were a few of us like that and so, by default, we would gather together in the playground each recess and lunch and at least pretend to be friends. Even here, feeling lonely and vulnerable, I was surrounded by the warmth of the Mount Carmel College community.

By the time I walked out the back gates for the last time in 1998, I was a confident, boisterous and assertive young lady, proudly declaring that I would be the first female Prime Minister of Australia. I departed in the company of a great group of girls, whose enduring friendships continue with me to this day. Oh, and I was still chubby but at least the hat had stopped itching!

Following this I attended Guilford Young College and then the University of Tasmania, where I graduated with a degree in economics and law. I have been employed in the area of criminal law since graduation and am currently a Federal Prosecutor with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. My day-to-day work requires me to call upon many skills first developed at Mount Carmel; not only in terms of knowledge and communication, but also the need to conduct myself as a woman of principle.

Many teachers have inspired me by their example or encouragement, however, a few stand out:

- **Mr Donnelly (Grades 4 and 6):** His Friday afternoon guitar solos and singalongs made me realise I couldn't dance or sing, but that didn't matter. It was being involved and the expression of oneself (no matter how out of tune or poorly timed) that mattered.



Anna (right) with her sister Maree, who graduated from Mount Carmel in 1995.



By the time I walked out the back gates for the last time in 1998, I was a confident, boisterous and assertive young lady.

- **Mrs Walsh (Grade 7B and Maths):** After colouring my brown hair a flaming shade of orange using a home dye kit in Year 8, she confronted me on the Monday morning and told me it looked ridiculous. Mrs Walsh knew I could handle the direct criticism and a blunt approach. She knew this because she not only taught me, but had taken the time to get to know me. I found this commitment to be typical of the staff at Mount Carmel; no girl was just a name on a roll call, we each had an identity, a personality and a story.
- **Mrs Kerr (Deputy Principal):** She was constantly encouraging me to challenge myself. Mrs Kerr made me feel that I could achieve anything and reminded me (and still does) of my Prime Ministerial declaration (she also shared my disappointment when Julia got there first).

My growth and development during the eight years I attended Mount Carmel are a reflection of the compassionate, supportive, encouraging and motivating community that nurtured me. I reflect upon my time there with fondness and pride, recalling it to be an environment in which individual development and diversity were encouraged and promoted. That occurred, as it should, regardless of race, religion, social background, personal circumstances or sexual preference.

Mount Carmel always felt safe, but it also equipped me with skills to embark upon life beyond 361 Sandy Bay Road with confidence and a sense of self. I hope that when current students take off their blazers each day, they feel that same support and encouragement.

In case you were wondering Mrs Walsh was right, my hair did look ridiculous!

For your Diary

Term One 2016

February

4	Year 7 Welcome Day Term 1 Commences for Kindergarten
5	Term 1 Commences Year 7 Familiarisation Day Year 7 Parent Afternoon Tea
8	Royal Hobart Regatta Public Holiday
9	Ash Wednesday Kinder Welcome Information Evening Parent iPad Information Session for Grade 4 and Year 7
10	Parent iPad Information Session for Grade 4 and Year 7
11	Parent iPad Information Session for Grade 4 and Year 7
12	Opening Mass Year 8 STRIVE Launch and Overnight Camp
13	Year 8 STRIVE Parent Information Morning
15	Prep to Grades 4/5 Information Evening
16	Year 10 Leadership Day
17	Primary Swimming Carnival
18	Mission Sisters Retreat
19	Year 7 Excursion Day
23	Secondary School Photos
24	Primary School Photos
25	Year 8 Resilience Day
26	Secondary House Beach Day
27-28	Relay for Life
29	Grade 6 MJR Day Grade 6 MJR Information Evening

March

2	Years 7-10 Class Teacher Learning Conferences
3	VET Hospitality Parent Evening
4-5	Grade 4/5 Camp
8	Year 8 Mother/Daughter Evening
14	Eight Hours Day Public Holiday
17	Year 10 Reflection Day
18	Twilight Fair
22	Open/Welcome Afternoon
23	Autumn Concert
25	Good Friday
27	Easter Sunday
28	Easter Monday
29	Easter Tuesday
31	Primary Learning Conferences Secondary Subject Learning Conferences

April

5	Grade 4/5 MJR Day
6	Primary Parent-Teacher Interviews
7	Grade 4/5 MJR Day Term 1 Concludes

Term Dates

Term 2

Monday, 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 26 April	Term 2 commences
Friday 20 May	Student Free Day
Friday 1 July	Term 2 concludes

Term 3

Monday 18 July	Term 3 commences
Friday 23 September	Term 3 concludes

Term 4

Monday 10 October	Term 4 commences
Thursday 20 October	Royal Hobart Show Day
Friday 21 October	Student and Staff Free Day
Tuesday 13 December	Term 4 concludes

Stay in contact

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of *Lauramont*.

Please continue to stay in touch – visit us online for the weekly bulletin and all our news and like us on Facebook so you can remain up-to-date with the many aspects of Mount Carmel College.

Remember to let us know your contact details: name, postal address, email and phone numbers plus the years you attended Mount Carmel College.

Keep us informed of your celebrations and special occasions for our Old Scholar news.



**Mount
Carmel
College**

We nurture.
We challenge.
We care.

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