

David Crowley, current member of the Teaching Staff: (written in 2021)

I started teaching at Trinity College at the start of 2001. John Lamb was the principal at that time.

John used to pride himself on the fact that he was financially astute and could rearrange the college finances whenever he wished to enable a worthwhile project to proceed. One of these projects I will mention more of was the Marist Immersion Excursions to Cambodia, the Solomon Islands and Santa Theresa. Behind the scenes though he supported staff members personally as well – I remember him making very supportive comments during my years as Year 11 Coordinator.

John is also remembered for his support of the staff in two other ways. One was an annual boat trip and lunch that the whole staff enjoyed for several years on the Gold Coast waterways as part of the back-to-school inservice days at the start of the school year. Year level pastoral care meetings were held with the Gold Coast seaway going past in the background.

Trinity College has been strong at reaching out to the needy. As mentioned above, Marist Immersions to Solomon Islands (2007/8) and Cambodia (2006 and 2010) and Santa Theresa (2012) and East Timor (2014) were held involving a total of approximately 100 students. In Cambodia students worked with disabled students at La Valla school and also distributed food aid in the Siem Reap area. In Santa Theresa in Central Australia and in East Timor, students lived with local people and did some service in the community. Unfortunately, a planned immersion to Cambodia in 2020 had to be cancelled when Covid struck.

Nancy Rodgers introduced the Marist Remar Youth Ministry program to the college in 2014. While this program was part of life in many Marist colleges, for a few years Trinity was the only college in Queensland running a Remar program. This program for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 involved quite a few students over a number of years. Caitlyn Humphrys, Alex Goerg, Jasmine Brown, David Crowley, Ciara Retford and Stephen Czapracki looked after Remar groups. Remar involved a lot of travel for the students with retreats at Ashgrove, Springbrook, Mt Tamborine, Sydney and Phillip Island as well as an immersion at Murgon and Cherbourg for Year 11 students. The highlights of the program were the Year 12 Retreats at Phillip Island mixing with Marist students from all the states across Australia. The Remar program has since been revamped to the Game Changers program run by Alicki Campbell, Jared Press, Mel Arne-Umstad, Brad Arne, Ciara Retford and Michael Parker.

I personally remember that John Lamb used to insist on a college video production to end the Awards Night with every year. For a number of years it was my job to produce the college video which usually ran for 15 minutes and included a spectacular opening scene each year. Some years it started with a roller-coaster ride ending at Trinity. In 2004 and 2008 the video included a Trinity College version of the Qantas, I Still Call Australia Home advertisement – in which students around the college sang I Still Call Trinity Home.

2010 saw a major change in the college with Catherine Thompson becoming Principal and Phil Cooper becoming Deputy-Principal. Big changes soon followed – Catherine instituted a big building program renovating the whole administration building and building the Montagne, La Chaperie, and Ludovic buildings as well as a major upgrade of the Auditorium and the Marcellin Champagnat Courtyard. Phil Cooper oversaw the introduction of the 1-1 computer program which was introduced by the Rudd government but is now a permanent part of teaching and learning at Trinity.

A few of my memories.

The wonderful camaraderie between most students and their teachers.

I will not add the memory of Tom Dowden coming back from a conference in a college where a large new building was being named after a previous principal. Tom offered to name the renovated staff toilets after John Lamb.

My greatest staff memory is of the staff act on Trinity Day in the early 2000's where four staff members – Alf DiMauro, Peter Shaw, Jeff Scott and Michael Davis – dressed up as the Wiggles and sang some songs. The real highlight was when they had all the Trinity College students joining in singing “My Little Red Car”.

Some staff will remember the joy that Catherine Thompson brought to a staff meeting when she announced to staff that visitors would be allocated carparking spaces according to their importance!
Dave Crowley 😊