

Susan Barnett (Miller), former member of the Teaching Staff: (written in 2022)

A Reflection

Trinity College was always about the people. Sounds like a cliché, but during the years I was a teacher within this community, it was a truth we experienced.

Brother John Mullins as the founding Principal and his religious co-founders, Brother Jeff Barrington and Sister Cecilia Anning, created a warm, supportive and inclusive community which I recall with great fondness.

Brother John was always a deeply caring and compassionate presence in the staffroom, in the playground and in the parish.

Brother Jeff was always full of creative enthusiastic energy, with much joie de vivre in all he accomplished.

Sister Cecilia was always the keen academic with a heart of gold and so gifted in her passion for science and being truly present for all.

It was a privilege to begin teaching at the College in its second year of education, with its unifying collegiality which engendered a sense of hope and purpose. Indeed, that hope and purpose grew and developed into a significant educational facility in the broader Beenleigh area.

The eager Year 9s I taught became the first graduating Year 12s. Classrooms were added almost yearly. Staffrooms were frequently re-located. Red earthworks became paths and gardens. Science laboratories and library facilities were often re-designed, re-purposed and re-established. The Undercroft transformed assemblies. The Trinity College Fun Run raised gratefully used funds. The Tuckshop created scrumptious ham and salad sandwiches, jam-packed with goodness and made with smiles. Computers landed in the Computer Room. All these fundamentals were always unswervingly focused on the charism of Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist tradition; clearly envisaged and implemented. It was the compassionate and loving community of all the staff, students, parents and parish, which mattered most, and which form my lasting happy memories of Trinity College, Beenleigh, in the 1980s.

It is challenging, but always enlightening to be part of something foundational.

It is a joy to look back to those early years: to the student successes in all the various ways they were manifested; to the friendships made and continued; to the difficult times overcome; to the changes embraced and to the accomplishments great and small.

It is heart-warming to be part of these memories and it is also heart-warming to see Trinity College continue to construct a positive future on the Marist bedrock and the communities of the past.

Susan Miller (Barnett)