

Mrs Marilyn Graham, Parent and former member of the Teaching Staff: (written in 2021)

A Reflection on my time at Trinity

Arriving at Trinity College in 1984, fresh from living 15 years in the UK, I was fortunate enough to be there almost from the beginning.

In a workplace overseen by the Marist Brothers, Sister Cecilia Anning and a handful of staff, 110 students began their secondary schooling in 1982. As foundation principal, Brother John Mullins generated an attitude of warmth and acceptance, and exerted a gentle discipline that pervades the college community, I believe, even to this day.

For 22 years, Trinity was like a second family to me and, as in all families, amidst the growth there were some very proud, memorable and amusing moments.

I remember well the annual Trinity Concert, which used to include a Staff item and the particular year we 'performed' "You're So Vain", much to the great amusement of the student audience.

What laughs and jokes we shared around the lunch table, where Matthew Mackle delivered his Auntie Dod's delicious cakes each week, and where this camaraderie revived our flagging energies in preparation for Periods 5 and 6 on a hot Friday afternoon!

How proud we were in 1993 when Trinity won the Rock Eisteddfod performing "The Fall of the House of Windsor".

It is so satisfying to read about the successes of past students whom we have taught - Megan Davis, Professor of Law at the University of N.S.W. and who in 2010, became the first indigenous Australian woman to be appointed to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Michael Voss – triple premiership captain of the Brisbane Lions, first Brisbane player to win the coveted Brownlow Medal and just recently, appointed Senior Coach of Carlton Football Club.

These are just two of our Trinity students who have exhibited inspirational leadership and dedication in their chosen fields.

Stepping into the shoes of my dear friend Ray Mitchell as Year 12 Coordinator in 1993, I found that life at Trinity took off on a different trajectory! Who amongst the wonderful Year 12 Home Room teachers who worked with me, could ever forget those frosty nights in June, running the Year 12, three day Retreat camps and patrolling noisy cabins, often till midnight!!

In the nineties, some of the Year 12's preoccupation with cars was an ongoing distraction for one and all. Achieving maximum capacity in both passengers and speed proved a constantly tempting prospect until new rules were put in place.

However, at the end of the year, it was always with both pride and a tinge of sadness that we farewelled each Senior cohort. Our hope was that as we had walked together in our Trinity community, the values, amongst others, of hard work, honesty, compassion and tolerance had been nurtured through their admirable fundraising for charities, visiting the elderly in the local nursing home and pastorally caring for the younger students in the college, to name but a few of their commitments to service.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the generosity and multiple talents of the Principals and staff, who laughed and worked with me, during those memorable 22 years of my life at Trinity College.

Marilyn Graham