

Nicolette McMahon (Nee - Retrot), former student and current Staff Member: (written in 2021)

Memories of Trinity – Early Years

I first came to Trinity College as a young Year 8 student in 1983. The Marist brothers lived onsite and there was only the foundation year above us. The campus was small, so small, the whole school assemblies were held undercover in the canteen area and only a few of our current buildings had been built. Luckily, we had the school oval.

It was a time before mobile phones, computers, the Internet, and Google. Class notes were written down meticulously before they could be wiped off the board and Overhead Projectors reigned supreme in the classrooms. RTC didn't exist and a xerox photocopy was rarely seen. During lunch and recess, we played whatever was popular at the time; elastics, marbles, yo-yo's, hopscotch, or handball to name just a few.

Our selection of elective subjects was limited; German, French, History, Geography, Home Economics, Graphics, Manual Arts, Typing and Shorthand. To break up the lessons, we had school sport for one afternoon every week. Full time apprenticeships were on offer to students who left school at the end of Year 10, or we could choose to complete Year 12 and apply for a place at university. Homework was collected at the start of each lesson, school reports were handwritten, and passing subjects was our only option if we didn't want to be kept down a grade.

We participated in Swimming carnivals, Athletic carnivals, each year, and our Cross-Country races were run through the streets of Beenleigh. The local Police (my dad) worked closely with the school to close roads and ensure the safety of staff and students. I remember being excited to represent Trinity College at QEII for the regionals in the 800m and 1500m one year and seeing Matilda from the Commonwealth Games.

I remember completing, what seemed like mountains of homework, being able to buy cups of hot soup in the middle of winter for 20 cents and icy poles handed out by staff at the finish line of the cross country. Dancing at school discos, the fun we had on school camps staying up all night and putting on talent shows.

Thank you, Trinity, I am proud to be a part of the Trinity story. You have forever shaped me; into the person I am today.