

Reflections of Ray Mitchell, former member of the Teaching Staff and former APRE: (written in 2021)

I was employed by Brother John Mullins to commence teaching at Trinity College in 1986. We had a great deal in common. I had grown up in Cairns and he had spent many fruitful years teaching in the Diocese of Cairns. John's mother was housekeeper to the Augustinian community at St Joseph's Parish in Parramatta Park and when she retired my mother replaced her. I had been overseas at the time studying for the priesthood in the Order of St Augustine. When I arrived at Trinity I had the immediate impression that it was a place of friendliness and happiness. This atmosphere was created by the presence of the Marist Brothers as they spoke with the students in the playground and in the classroom. There wasn't an atmosphere of them (the students) and us (the teachers) but a togetherness that we were all on a journey together.

My fourteen years at the College were under the leadership of three different Principals. Others have reflected on some of the major events during those years. I would like to point to the role that student and staff Retreats played in the development of a faith community and realizing the fact that teaching in a Catholic school was a ministry of the Church. The Retreats were also great fun and enjoyment of each other's company. The school developed opportunities in a variety of sports, artistic presentations, drama and musicals. It was this balanced approach to the Curriculum that provided good opportunities for all talents and personalities.

An example of the quick wit and repartee of the student teacher relationship was in a Year 8 English class. At the time John Breakspear was the Deputy and Vicky Toovey was Assistant Principal. One of the students in my class, Daniel Kelly by name, seemed to be ignoring my directions so I said to him, "Daniel, if you do not pay attention to me I will send you to see Mr. Shakespeare!" Daniel's reply was, "Toovey or not toovey that is the question!" I burst out laughing at his wit which was so appropriate in an English class and came so quickly.

The College assemblies were also opportunities for students to use their creativity and communication skills. When we moved from the Walkathon as a means of fund raising to a Beachathon, the Student leadership decided the change needed promotion. At the time I was Year 12 Coordinator. In front of the whole school I was seated on a stool while two students poured a bucket of sand and a bucket of water over me to indicate what fun the Beachathon was going to be. The move from the streets and farms around Eagleby to the beaches of the Gold Coast was a great success.

May the Year 2022, forty years on from 1982 be a wonderful celebration.