



**Inspirational role models:  
the stories of students  
who attended Marden  
Senior College in the past.**

*The Register of Achievers is  
dedicated to all students who  
have attended Marden Senior  
College and achieved their  
goals.*

Volume 13, December 2015



*“I would encourage future students to take hold of the opportunity Marden Senior College offers and grab hold of your future career goals, nothing is impossible.”*

## Hayley

### Coming to Marden

I decided to come to Marden to improve my ATAR to get into my preferred university course.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

My favourite memory of Marden would have to be being a part of the Student Government Association. I joined the formal committee as I didn't get to do that at my old high school.

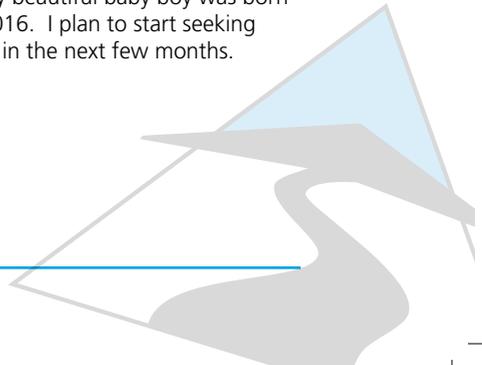
I enjoyed the fact we were treated as an adult and it really prepared me for university life as the teachers were very flexible.

I studied Psychology, Women's Studies, Child Studies and Health. My favourite would have to be Child Studies as I love working with children and watching them grow. In one assessment task we made a toy for a child that involved using their motor skills. I made an activity cube which included a squeaky toy, crunchy door flap and various other noises and different fabric textures.

Marden is a fantastic school and I would recommend future students to enrol at Marden as it is a place for people who actually want to be at school, a completely different atmosphere compared to high school.

### Achievements to date

Since leaving Marden I completed my Bachelor of Nursing Degree in November 2015, while working part time and pregnant. My beautiful baby boy was born in January 2016. I plan to start seeking employment in the next few months.



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# Jack

## Coming to Marden

Previously I attended a very hard-line school that revolved around highly conservative values with little flexibility when it came down to individuality. As I neared Year 12, I began searching for schools that accommodated independence and treated its students like mature adults. As I learnt about Marden Senior College and what it offered, it became very obvious that a transfer would be in my best interests.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

Retrospectively, my experience at Marden was very positive. Throughout the year I spent at Marden, I received tremendous support from teachers in each of the subjects I was taking, many of whom were clearly putting all their energy and effort into helping me compose that perfect essay or solve that tedious equation, for which I am forever grateful.

The subjects I undertook at Marden included Chemistry, Biology, Mathematical Methods, English Communications, and Research Project, all of which (with the help of my teachers) I managed to achieve an A grade or higher, thereby earning an ATAR of 99.15. That was sufficient for me to enter my dream degree – Medicine.

During the academic year there were also many community oriented events planned by the staff and student body at Marden, including sausage sizzles, fundraisers, and book sales. These events certainly provided a pleasant break from studies, and allowed me to make many new friends and also engage in some lively banter with my teachers.

The mature community and approach to student interaction and teaching was also a major highlight of my time at Marden. Initially, the transition from being a student who was constantly watched over and scrutinized to an independent learner



certainly was a leap for me. However, with the constant support and encouragement from teachers to show initiative, this eventually allowed me to develop a sense of “learn for your own sake” rather than “learn because your teacher tells you to”. Ultimately, this shift in perception of education proved to be paramount to succeeding in tertiary studies.

## Achievements to date, today and the future

Since graduating from Marden, I have entered my second year of medical school. I have continued to be passionate about studying, and hope to one day enter a specialist field that involves a high degree of patient interaction, such as dermatology, psychiatry or general practice.

*“Realise that you should be passionate about everything you do. Nothing of remarkability or greatness has ever been a product of apathy.”*

# Josh

## Coming to Marden

After finishing Year 12 in 2009 and being in the construction industry for three years in various casual roles, I decided I needed stability. I always wanted to become a teacher so I decided to enrol at Marden in 2012.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

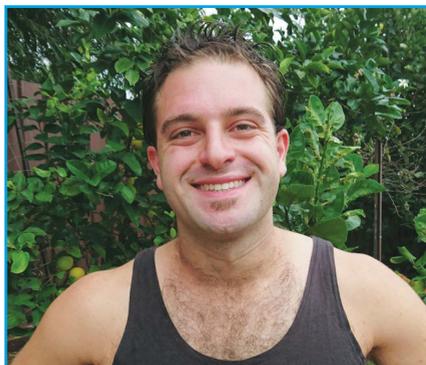
I was quite nervous returning to school at 22 years of age and not knowing what to expect, but I was excited at the same time. For me, it was a fresh start, I had a goal, obtain my SACE and gain admission into university.

My experience at Marden was one of the best, to say the least. The teachers were really nice, they wanted to help as much as they could, and had a different yet refreshing approach to teaching. Students who enrolled at Marden, regardless of age, were all there to get somewhere, which I believe contributes to Marden's unique success.

I studied English Communications, Mathematical Applications, Health and the Research Project. I undertook these subjects as they were suited to my future career pathway. In addition, I was able to use my initial Year 12 results (from 2009) which included: Furniture Construction and Building Construction.

## Achievements to date

I received an 89.92 overall (without bonus points) for my ATAR, and I was able to get into Primary and Middle Teaching, as my original chosen degree: Design and Technology was unavailable at the time. I completed my first year of Primary and Middle teaching, but chose to internally transfer degrees in 2015. I am now in my second year of Design and Technology.



*“Overall, I say the world has endless opportunities/possibilities, and I hope those reading this find a road they want to be on, stick to it, because you never know where you may end up”*

After Marden I have also successfully held a casual job at Bianco Hire, which is a great business to work for and they have accommodated my university study load for the past two and a half years.

## Today and the future

Today I am striving to achieve my goal of becoming a teacher, whilst I continue to work at Bianco Hire. I am committed to seeing my degree through, becoming qualified and looking for work in either a metropolitan, rural and/or overseas location; depending on the opportunities available to me upon my graduation.



## Kevin

### Coming to Marden

I initially considered changing schools as my previous high school was unable to offer the option of doing six subjects in Year 12. While in the process of choosing schools I was predominantly interested in an adult learning environment as I felt it would provide skills for further education. After investigating the options that were available, I decided Marden Senior College was the most appropriate choice to support me in achieving my goals, because of the flexibility and opportunity offered.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

I commenced study at Marden in 2014 and enrolled in six subjects: Chemistry, Biology, Nutrition, Mathematical Methods, English Communications and Research Project. Initially, the move from my previous school to Marden felt quite odd, as a high school never provided me the opportunity for such a high level of independence. However, once becoming accustomed to the changes, I was able to capitalize on

the opportunities it offered providing me with flexibility to use my time as needed throughout the year.

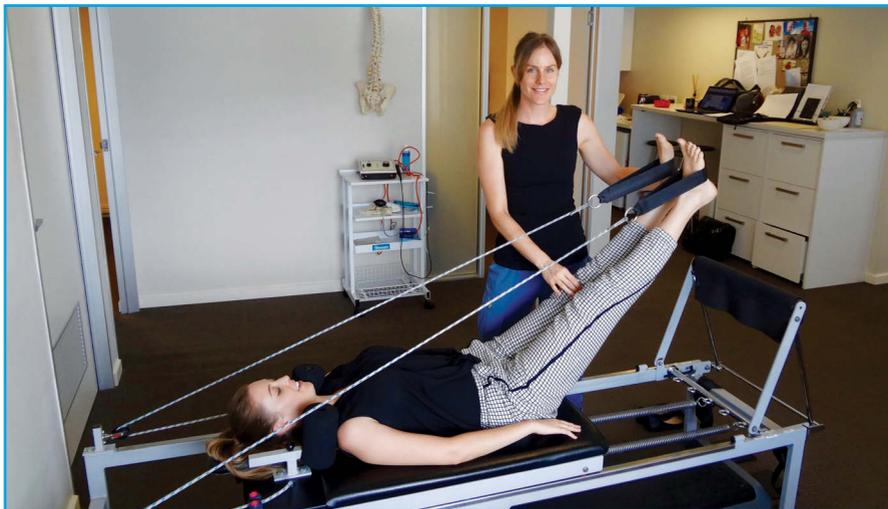
Aspiring to study medicine at University, I was required to achieve sufficient ATAR and University Medicine Admissions Test (UMAT) scores to be considered for admission interviews. As such, preparation for UMAT was a major component of my Year 12 education. Being at Marden, I was able to tailor my academics to facilitate a balance I felt was right allowing me to achieve the results I wanted. Due to the large workload, time management was vital, however, the unique two hour lessons allowed me to organise my workload in such a way that I had days free from school to complete other objectives.

During my year at Marden, it was evident that the unique core values of the school were in practice with staff prioritizing student success above all else. I felt this played a significant role in what I was able to achieve as teachers were willing to provide additional time and resources to support me towards my goals. At the end of the year, I was fortunate enough to be selected as the Caltex Best All-Rounder Award winner which would not have been possible without the aforementioned support.

### Achievements to date, today and the future

Following my graduation from Marden Senior College I was successful in my application to study a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Adelaide and in 2015 I commenced my first year of university. Currently, I am a second year student and in the future I hope to be able to complete an honour's project as a part of my medical course.

*“You only fail when you stop trying.”*



## Linda

### Coming to Marden

Upon completion of my SACE in 2001 I had a change of heart as to my preferred career path. To qualify for application for the Bachelor of Exercise Science (Human Movement) at UniSA I required another science subject. Thus I enrolled in Biology at Marden Senior College.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

I only spent one year studying one subject at Marden, however I only have fond memories. Marden allowed me the freedom to work full time while studying; the staff, while effectively still our “teachers” afforded the students a different style of student-teacher relationship – one of mutual respect, which is not often seen within the usual schooling realm. This enabled students the ability to be responsible for their own learning and develop into mature young adults. I would highly recommend Marden Senior College as a stepping stone to achieving your future goals.

### Achievements to date, today and the future

From Marden I was accepted into the Bachelor of Exercise Science (Human Movement) at UniSA. I proceeded to complete the first two years of this degree prior to transferring into the Bachelor of Physiotherapy at LaTrobe University in Melbourne, from which I graduated in 2008.

I am now moving into my eighth year working as a physiotherapist. During this time I have had numerous roles and clinical experiences, however I am currently employed in private practice, treating and rehabilitating musculo-skeletal conditions with a combination of manual and exercise based therapy.

*“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I’m possible’.”*



## Madelene

### Coming to Marden

On finishing Year 12 to gain my SACE I needed to complete one more subject. The subjects my current high school offered were not in my interest area. I looked at different schools and colleges and found Marden Senior College offered a large variety of subjects. On completion of my SACE I had intended on studying the Certificate 3 in Visual Arts at TAFE. I found out that Marden also offered this course and I could complete this certificate and gain my SACE both in one year.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

I completed Certificate 3 in Painting and Drawing at Marden in 2015. Through completing this course I have gained new skills such as organizing and managing my work. I learnt many new art techniques and experienced a large variety of mediums. While I was at Marden I made some great new friends with whom I am still in touch. Each day I attended Marden was really enjoyable. The classroom was a very relaxed environment and it was great to

be with my friends. I found the staff at Marden to be friendly, incredibly supportive and helpful. The work we were given in the course was well planned and fun to complete, I feel as though I learnt new skills with every task.

### Achievements to date

Since leaving Marden Senior College I have begun studying a new combined course with Flinders University and TAFE (Adelaide College of the Arts). I feel my experience with the Certificate 3 Painting and Drawing course helped me gain a place in the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) course as well as aiding me in my study and practical skills. Since completing the Research Project it had been a goal of mine to attend the Adelaide College of the Arts when I finished high school.

### Today and the future

My future goals are to complete my Flinders Uni/TAFE Bachelor Degree with high marks. I would like to produce my own art works to sell on my own website.

*“Marden Senior College was a great college to attend as I feel it helped ease me into my further studies. It is a big leap out of high school and into Uni or TAFE. Marden is a small community where the teachers take a genuine interest in you and your studies.”*

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# Madeline

## Coming to Marden

I originally left school after completing Year 11 due to a lack of interest in school. After completing a carpentry apprenticeship I found that although it was fun, I couldn't see myself doing that type of work in the future.

Seven years after leaving school I decided that I wanted to complete my SACE and broaden my future career possibilities. A friend recommended that I go to Marden Senior College as she had been there prior to starting a Nursing degree. After visiting the College and talking to one of the counsellors, I signed up for the mid-year intake and started my first day of school two days later.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

I found that Marden had a very community minded and friendly atmosphere, which made me actually want to attend every class, I even went to some additional workshops for help with study and exam strategies.

Through the consistent and genuine encouragement of the staff at Marden I was inspired to aim higher and I achieved more than I realized I was capable of. I achieved a subject merit in the Research Project and, with bonus points, an overall ATAR of 98.5.

When I was unsure whether my ATAR would be competitive enough for the degree I wanted to do, a tutor encouraged me to sit the Special Tertiary Admissions Test as an alternate pathway to university. After attending Marden's preparation course for the test, I ended up with a score in the 99th percentile which secured me an offer for a place in the Bachelor of Paramedic Science at Flinders University.



## Achievements to date, today and the future

Since leaving Marden I have completed the first year of the Paramedic Science degree. Once I have completed the three year degree I hope to be offered an internship with the South Australian Ambulance Service.

There are limited positions available each year so it's very competitive. If I miss out on an internship here, I may end up working with Ambulance services interstate, or even in London where they are seeking paramedics trained in Australian universities.

*“You never know what you are capable of achieving until you try.”*



*“Have some fun! High school doesn’t have to be a difficult and stressful time of your life. Study well, make friends, and always participate in everything you can. Become a lifelong learner and always strive to do your best in every aspect of your life.”*

## Nathan

### Coming to Marden Senior College

I was home-schooled during my primary and high school years. I first tried Open Access College in Year 10 to get back into attending school, however I found that I didn’t enjoy doing school over the phone and studying alone. I decided to enrol at Marden Senior College for Stage 1 and 2. I wanted to study Science at university so I needed to complete Year 12. My parents and I chose Marden because we lived close by, it looked like a nice place, and we thought it would be better than going to a new high school.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

I loved studying at Marden. I chose Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics, which would provide me with a good foundation of knowledge that I needed. I really enjoyed going to school and mixing with a variety of people, who were mostly adults. The teachers there were also amazing and friendly, some of whom I still communicate with today. They were friendly with all of the students and sometimes didn’t even feel like teachers. Having this interaction made high school really fun and enjoyable

for me. I always tell people how great it was to study at Marden. Everyone says that high school is the hardest/least enjoyable time of your life but for me it was one of the best!

I attended every class and made good friends with everyone I met. Due to the way the classes were structured, it made my first year of university a breeze. Additionally, the interaction with adults greatly improved my confidence.

I was involved with the Student Government Association, as I loved working as part of a team. We held BBQs, second-hand sales, and organized the Formal. Through my involvement with the SGA, I was recognised as a leader. This enabled me to visit the Governor of South Australia, and later be awarded with the ADF Long Tan Youth and Leadership Award upon completion of Year 12. This further inspired my passion for leadership.

### Achievements to date

After completing Year 12 and achieving the appropriate ATAR, I enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Adelaide. I joined every club I had an interest in, which was a fantastic way to make new friends who had similar interests.

I did so well with my grades in the first year of university that I was invited to join the Golden Key Honour Society, which is given to students who rank in the top 15%. My grades also enabled me to do a summer

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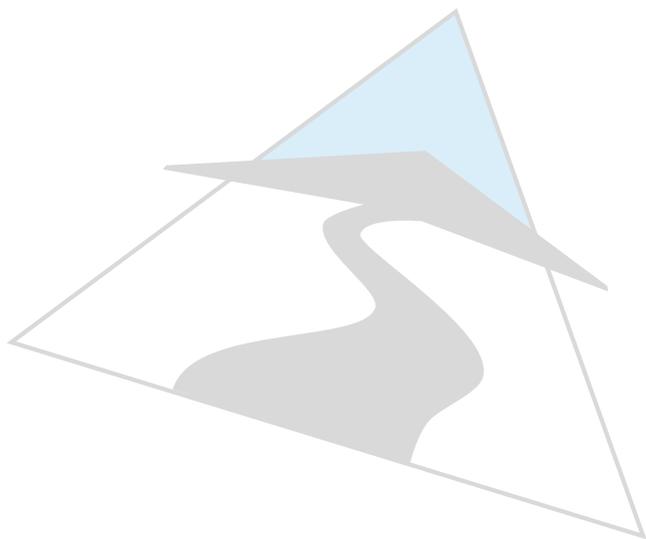
# Nathan

scholarship working in a lab. Throughout my university life I have been involved in a variety of roles for the clubs I've joined, such as vice president for the Athletics Club for three years, Community Service Officer for Golden Key, and secretary for Adelaide Students Toastmasters, to name a few.

I have also volunteered for a variety of organisations. I have been a peer mentor for science students for two years, which helps first year students adapt to university life. I also volunteered for the information service at university, and through this I was offered a casual employment position.

## Today and the future

I am currently in my last semester of my degree, majoring in Biochemistry and Physiology. After I graduate, I aim to do honours in Biochemistry and follow that up with a PhD in the future. My goal is to be a researcher and perhaps become a professor.



# Nicole

## Coming to Marden

In 2007 I began Year 12 at my local high school. However, due to some disrupting life events I never managed to complete my SACE. I spent some time working for a bank before I found out I was pregnant in 2010. After a period of time on maternity leave I found it impossible to get a job, so decided to return to study.

I knew I wanted to attend university but had no idea what I wanted to study. Instead of choosing an alternate university entry pathway, I decided to go back to secondary education. I hoped this would develop my academic skills, bring me greater opportunities in terms of university placement and job prospects. I also hoped it would help me figure out what I wanted to do next.

I chose Marden Senior College because it promoted a supportive adult learning environment. I needed to be in a school which accommodated my role as primary caregiver of a three year old and a one year old. The campus was not local to me but I was happy to travel for the right school.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

Luckily, my time at Marden was genuinely the best schooling experience I have had to date. I attended a variety of high schools when I was a teenager and I never really felt comfortable at any of them. My time at Marden was completely different. First and foremost, the teaching staff are a real asset to the College. They made my time there enjoyable and were always willing to go that extra mile to help. The atmosphere at the College was supportive, friendly and relaxed.

I undertook part time study, taking on the Stage 2 subjects Research Project, Health and Nutrition. After deciding Nutrition did not really interest me, I decided to transfer to Legal Studies. I received an A+ and a SACE Merit for Research Project and Health and an A for Legal Studies. I also received subject awards for all three subjects I studied, as well as various other achievement awards.



Choosing Legal Studies inspired me to apply for a place to study a Bachelor of Laws. I had not completed enough subjects to gain an ATAR, so I decided to sit the alternative STAT test to gain entry. The skills I had gained at Marden paid off and I was offered a place at UniSA in their Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Psychological Science double degree.

## Achievements to date, today and the future

I am now in my second year at UniSA in the Bachelor of Laws program. Last year, I received a UniSA Merit for high achievement. I am also now employed at the university facilitating study sessions for first year law students.

I have developed an interest in criminal and international law and enjoy advocacy. I also would like to pursue an academic career part time after graduation. I am set to graduate in 2018, after which I hope to gain admission to the bar. Eventually, I would like to set up my own firm as a barrister and hope travel will be an integral part of my future career.

I have a busy life, with a family, work and full time study. However, I genuinely enjoy what I am doing and would never have been able to do it without my experience at Marden.

*“If at first you don’t succeed, try again. If you reach your goals in the end, it does not matter how long it takes you to get there.”*

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# Petra

## Coming to Marden

Originally from Austria, in 1996 and in my mid-twenties I migrated to Australia and found employment in my field of Business Administration. Following the birth of my children I left full-time employment and took on a variety of jobs both paid and as a volunteer, as well as being a working part owner of a coffee shop. We moved a lot within Australia and ultimately settled in Adelaide. After my children started school I decided to upgrade my skills and in 2011 enrolled at Marden Senior College.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

Making the decision to re-educate myself and going back to college as a mature aged student was daunting but my experience at Marden was amazing. The support, encouragement, friendships and advice given by all teachers and staff throughout my studies enabled me to clearly see what I wanted to achieve and helped me as I tackled the challenge of learning in a new country under a different education system.

I started studying for Certificate III in Business Administration but found that I was also interested in Graphic Design and was able to enrol in Certificate IV in Graphic Design as well.

At some stage while talking with friends on campus I recalled back to when I was 14, deciding my career path. I had briefly considered Graphic Design and/or Design in general but at that young age had decided that the more secure option was Business Administration. It is great that after all these years I was able to pursue my 'long lost' passion.



## Achievements to date

I successfully completed Certificate III in Business Administration and Certificate IV in Graphic Design, including my Research Project on 'how to set up a home-based freelance Graphic Design Business'. I followed the advice given by my teachers and continued my studies at TAFE, completing the Diploma of Graphic Design, adding some units of the Advanced Diploma for my portfolio and completed Certificate IV in Small Business Management with the NEIS program.

## Today and the future

With the knowledge gained through my studies I have been accepted into the NEIS program which has enabled me to set up my business with the help of a mentor for the first year. In November 2015 I registered my Freelance Graphic Design Business and launched my brand. During my studies I have also been able to be home for my children when required. It is my intention to run a successful business from home, which will allow me to continue to look after my family.

*“Put your passion into action.”*