REGISTER OF ACHIEVERS
Marden Senior College is a DECD Specialist Senior Secondary College committed to providing students with pathways to enable them to continue or to resume their studies. Our comprehensive curriculum provides multiple opportunities to complete the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). The College, as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), delivers nationally accredited Vocational Education and Training (VET) certificate courses. Through this broad curriculum the College provides education and training pathways for a diverse student cohort to complete the senior years of schooling.

The College’s motto is “Your Pathway to Success”. This motto reflects our objective of setting students on a planned learning course. Marden students say that our success in supporting students to achieve their learning goals is due to the positive relationship between students and their teachers, and through the excellent range of support services available to them at the College.

Nominated by staff, members of the Marden Senior College Register of Achievers are a diverse group of people united by their desire to successfully complete their education. These past students are inspirational role models for our current and future students. They provide others with the motivation to continue with their studies even though individual circumstances might seem to provide very real obstacles to success. All students in the Register of Achievers have gone on to achieve academic excellence, employment aspirations or personal satisfaction.

They speak enthusiastically about the opportunities Marden Senior College has provided and are very positive about the value of education in enhancing their quality of life.

This booklet, the twelfth in a series honouring our past students, celebrates the achievements of a group we feel privileged to have as part of our College community.
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 12, December 2014
Alannah

Coming to Marden
In Year 12 at my previous school, I was ill with Glandular Fever and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, so I reduced my study load and decided to complete Year 12 over 2 years. I did half at my school and then completed the remaining subjects at Marden Senior College the following year.

Experience at Marden Senior College
Attending Marden changed my life in many ways. The teachers and staff were all so lovely and keen to help me in every aspect of my studies. I did not know what I wanted to do for my career until I started at Marden and spoke with the careers counsellor.

Upon commencement of my studies, I immediately discovered that I learnt much better in an independent learning environment with teachers who treated me as an equal and cared about me and my study and career goals.

I studied Modern History, Women’s Studies and Studies of Society and Environment. I achieved a score of 20 for Modern History.

Achievements to date
I have completed a Bachelor of Laws (Hons), a Bachelor of International Studies and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. I am now an admitted legal practitioner in NSW and SA.

Whilst at Law School, I undertook work experience at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in the Northern Territory, Adelaide Magistrate’s Court Criminal Legal Advice Service and Christopher Ganzis and Co Lawyers. I did volunteer work at the Women’s Legal Service SA Inc and I completed a Clerkship at the Crown Solicitor’s Office and Mellor Olsson.

Today and the future
I am currently a Judge’s Associate at the District Court of South Australia (full time), and I teach Criminal Law and Procedure at the University of Adelaide Law School (casual).

I recently wrote a 12,000 word article on law reform in the Northern Territory and have sent it in for publication to the Northern Territory Law Journal. The article has passed the first stage and has now been sent off for review.

My future goals are to continue my career in the law as a lawyer and continue to teach the law to students whilst also keeping up to date with reforms and areas of potential reform.

"Don’t be afraid to pursue your dreams, good things come to those who work hard.”
Coming to Marden
I never finished school, so after nearly 8 years I enrolled at Marden Senior College to achieve my SACE to improve my opportunity of gaining better quality employment.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I had a small child at the time and I only did the bare minimum of work to get through. It took me a couple of goes but I achieved my SACE in the end.

My most memorable classes were Drama and Photography. The teachers were really respectful of my situation and supported and encouraged me greatly. I had never been treated like this in a school environment before and it really gave me the courage to return and finish my studies despite everything else in life seeming to be against me. I also met one of my best friends in drama class and she has been great at pushing me out of my comfort zone at school and in life.

In my graduating year of 2006 I won the L&P Photographic Award for my SACE Photography and this gave me the push I needed to apply for some higher education courses. In doing so I was accepted into two different courses, Photography at Croydon as well as a Bachelor of Visual Art and Design at TAFE SA. I decided to do the Bachelor Degree because it provided a more varied range of job opportunities upon completion.

Achievements to date
Since Marden I went on to complete a Bachelor of Visual Art and Design at AC Arts in Light Square. This was really difficult but with my experience at Marden I knew I could get through it no matter what life threw at me, which during this time was a whole lot. Despite the hardships I got through the course with many great new friends and a credit grade average.

I gained employment in a camera store which has given me a great deal of industry experience I didn’t think was possible. However, working in retail just hasn’t been my calling and so I looked into other job options that my degree could give me. Due to the credit average I had achieved, and having a few years of industry experience under my belt, I was able to apply for a Masters of Teaching at Uni SA and was lucky enough to be accepted.

Today and the future
I worked hard and completed the course at an accelerated pace of 18 months instead of 2 years. I was told at Uni this would make it easier for me to get work, but unfortunately this wasn’t true.

I spent a year looking for regular teaching work. However, it was all worth it because now I’m teaching Photography at Marden Senior College!

“Do what you have to do because you could be the juiciest, ripest peach on the tree, but there is always going to be someone who doesn’t like peaches.”
Daniel

Coming to Marden
I enrolled at Marden Senior College as it offered subjects I couldn’t get at my other high school. To improve my chances of getting into university it was decided that I would complete Stage 2 over two years.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I was initially only planning to study one subject, Geography. However, I decided to also study Geology, Chemistry and Digital Media. The only subject I didn’t have any prior knowledge about or had studied at lower levels was Digital Media.

Throughout the year I had lots of fun both learning and participating in what I did at Marden. I tried to make friends, but unfortunately I have not maintained contact with the wonderful people I met at the time.

At the end of it all I did well in all my subjects, but the subject I excelled best in was Digital Media. At first I was unsure about my ability to be successful in this subject since I had no prior experience, but it was the words of my teacher, that both reassured and inspired me to focus. They were: “It’s the students who are new to Digital Media who tend to do the best in the subject. This is because they are more willing to learn it all and try to do well in it.”

As it turned out in the end, I did end up doing better than I expected by receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award and the Subject Prize for Digital Media that year.

I didn’t just earn it based on the quality of my work, as the rest of the class also had some wonderful work of their own. I earned it through all the extra hours I put into it, both at home and at school. There was barely a day where I didn’t spend my time when I didn’t have lessons working on my Major and Minor Projects for the subject. If it wasn’t for that hard work, I probably wouldn’t have been able to do half as well as I did.

“Remember to keep hold of your goals and aspirations in life and be prepared to fail more than once before you succeed. In life, as with everything you can’t get it all right on the first attempt, but as long as you persevere – you’ll get there in the long run.”

Achievements to date
After graduating from Marden, I was fortunate to get my first choice of a place in a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Adelaide.

Today and the future
I am still working my way through the degree with the aim to at least finish with a Masters Degree in my chosen field.

I am also working towards increasing my art and writing skills, taking online courses where time permits.

In the future I hope to be a published author and illustrator/artist as well as a distinguished scientist. I can’t just focus solely on one or the other because my interests and passions lie within all of them. Not to mention the art and literature industries are difficult to get into. I guess in some ways I take inspiration from Isaac Asimov, who managed to be one of the most prolific authors and writers ever, but still managed to hold a full time job as a university professor.
“Set yourself short and long term goals for your time at Marden and beyond. Then, don’t lose sight of them – they will keep you motivated in the hardest times of the year and put you back on track when you lose your way.”

Emma

Coming to Marden
During Year 12 I lacked the key ingredient to success: motivation. Consequently, I did not reach my goals in terms of subject marks or even feel a sense of achievement. After completing a year of Health Science, and still being no closer to where I wanted to be, I turned to Marden Senior College.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I will always remember my first visit to Marden. My Mum helped to get the ball rolling with a meeting at Student Services to discuss enrolment. I left that day with a sense of purpose and direction, something I had lacked for nearly two years. I chose to study three subjects: Biology, Psychology and English Communications. As my aim was to be accepted into Physiotherapy at UniSA, I was reminded that to achieve the ATAR required, which was 98.25, I would have to get an A-average in all subjects. This was my main source of motivation: being told you wouldn’t be able to achieve your goals makes you work harder to prove them wrong.

Whilst at Marden I was given the opportunity to attend Government House for an afternoon tea with the Governor. This was an incredible experience that I didn’t expect would happen again. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I was awarded a merit in Biology, which meant a second visit to Government House, this time with my family.

My ATAR when I first completed Year 12 was 75.25. I was incredibly disappointed with this at the time, but have since seen it as a blessing in disguise. Had I done better, I may not have come to Marden and achieved my goals. To put it into perspective, after my year at Marden I attained an ATAR of 95.25 – exactly 20 points higher than my initial score. With the five bonus points this gave me a Tertiary Entrance Rank of 99.95 for all South Australian Universities. I was offered my first preference of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at the University of South Australia.

I appreciated the opportunity to study with, and learn from, a wide range of students from many different backgrounds. I learnt much about myself, and life in general. This experience will serve me well in my working life as a Physiotherapist.

Achievements to date
In my first year of Physiotherapy, I became a committee member of the Australian Physiotherapy Association Student Group as well as Academic Representative for my year level within Physiotherapy. Through this, I was able to meet, and learn from specialists in the field of Physiotherapy. This helped me expand and direct my study skills and gain valuable contacts in the industry. By the end of this first year, I had been awarded a merit certificate for being among the top 10% in the School of Health Sciences.

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Erin

Coming to Marden
I enrolled at Marden to complete Year 12. I was looking for a more flexible study environment, away from the stresses of normal high school.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I really enjoyed my time at Marden Senior College. I studied Design, English, Media Studies, Mathematical Applications and completed my Research Project.

For me, the best part about Marden was being treated like an adult and having the ability to manage my own time. I found that the staff were enthusiastic and always happy to help. In my opinion, doing Year 12 at Marden was the best preparation for University study. Managing my time and working independently are skills that I have acquired and have needed to be successful at University.

While I was at Marden I made a few friends and we all got involved with the SGA. We helped to organize sausage sizzles and the school formal, which was a fantastic night. I was awarded the Caltex Best All Rounder Award for 2012, which was really meaningful because it recognized a range of qualities, not just academic achievement.

Achievements to date
After completing Year 12, I applied for a number of University courses with no real sense of direction. I was lucky enough to be offered my first preference, a Bachelor of Speech Pathology at Flinders University. I started the course, still not sure if it was what I really wanted to do. Fortunately, towards the end of my first year I started to realize that I had made the right decision.

Today and the future
Currently I am in my second year of study, I have two casual jobs and volunteer every month at Leveda Disability Services. My most immediate goal is to go travelling around Europe at some point next year. After that, I want to finish my course and hopefully get a job where I can help adults with speech issues and swallowing problems.

“Choosing a career path at the end of Year 12 can feel incredibly daunting. I think you just have to relax and trust your own judgement. Any form of study or work that you complete will be helpful to you regardless of whether you change your direction later.”
Jan

**Coming to Marden**
I decided to attend Marden Senior College to study Stage 1 and 2 due to its appealing diversity of students, variations in age, backgrounds and purpose. I quickly realised these students shared an underlying motivation to succeed. Additionally, Marden offered unique courses not available at other educational providers – for example Geology.

**Experience at Marden Senior College**
Prior to attending Marden, I had it in my mind to become a Geologist. I’ve always loved being outdoors and collecting unique and interesting rocks as well as minerals. Motivated by this future goal, Marden provided all of the necessary facilities for me to thrive. In the first year I had selected science courses available to me such as Biology, Chemistry and compulsory topics such as English and Mathematics.

In Year 12 (my second year) I was comparatively far more confident in choices and communication skills. I joined the Student Government Association, providing me with the opportunity to further develop my team member skills and be part of fun events such as BBQs and the formal organization. I continued studying Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, and now Geology.

**Achievements to date**
At the end of my Stage 2 studies I received the highest marks in my Geology course and won an award from Beach Energy for my efforts.

Marden’s impact was greatly significant in providing me with the opportunity to conquer my goals. I was successful in gaining a place at The University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus, studying a Bachelor of Science (Mineral Geoscience).

**Today and the future**
I am completing my degree and in the future I will complete Honours and become a Geologist working somewhere in the world doing what I love. I will also continue to learn, and accept any opportunities given to me to further my experience, talents, and abilities, as well as meet interesting and phenomenal new people.

“Start saying yes to as many opportunities as possible. You might find talents and abilities you didn’t even know you had. When you lack motivation, what reason can you remember that you can call upon, that you can reach for, that will get you back up? Find that reason.”

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Katelyn

Coming to Marden
I enrolled at Marden Senior College to study Year 12 and to get away from my previous high school environment.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I learnt a lot from my experience at Marden.

It was a very difficult year for me as I was struggling with personal issues in my life. It was also made more difficult by having to adapt to a new school environment and make new friendship groups whilst studying, with the goal of successfully completing Year 12.

Throughout the year I made an effort just to throw myself into my study as much as I could which was so much easier with the help and support of the teachers and College support staff.

Marden helped me to become more independent and self-disciplined both in my learning and as a person. I completed Year 12 and received outstanding achievement awards for Health and the Research Project.

I have also had the opportunity and privilege to play guitar and sing at the 2013 and 2014 end of year Presentation Night ceremonies at the Norwood Town Hall.

I am grateful to still be connected to some of the staff at Marden and to have memories from my time there, which I know helped me grow as a person.

Achievements to date
Since finishing Year 12 I have gone on to study at Influencers Leadership College.

In 2014 I completed my Certificate IV in Christian Leadership and was also fortunate to be able to attend a short term missions trip to Indonesia where I visited multiple orphanages and was a speaker at different churches.

I have also had the opportunity to be a Youth Leader within my church where I lead, love and support underprivileged children.

Today and the future
Currently I am continuing my study to complete my Diploma in Christian Leadership.

In the future I want to continue being heavily involved in the life of Influencers Church as well as being involved in more mission work and helping people to see their worth and importance.

“Throw yourself into the life of Marden and get to know as many people as you can. I found that there were so many different people there, each with an individual story to share. Keep an open heart and give everything you have in the short time that you are there. It will be over before you know it! Believe in yourself! It’s very simple yet so powerful! You may have more ability within you than you realise!”
“Discipline and dedication brings its own reward. You can only do your best and doing that means you’ll be able to face yourself, wherever the chips might fall.”

Kevin

Coming to Marden Senior College
17 years after leaving school, I decided to enrol at Marden Senior College to achieve my SACE qualification with the original intention of joining SAPOL; this goal changed very quickly, but at least it started the journey.

Experience at Marden Senior College
My subjects were: Modern History, Legal Studies, Society and Culture, English Communications and Research Project. I was lucky enough to have a solid core of experienced, dedicated teachers.

My journey got off to an auspicious start, as due to illness, I missed one class entirely whilst arriving halfway through another. In addition to this, I was daunted by the workload and my ability to get through after: (a) being a long time out of study; (b) never having been a great student.

Nevertheless, I faced up to the task in front of me and weathered my initial teething problems, through the early formative assessments in each class – that is the good thing about formative assessment, it gives you a gauge of what the requirements of the course are, in order for you and your teacher to rectify the problems before the real business of summative assessment begins.

I made friends and established a good working rapport with my teachers. The demands of SACE were such that I could never really sit back and take it easy as I was always focusing on the next task. This has continued at tertiary level and Marden really did prepare me with the organisational skills and discipline that rewarding study demands.

In the end everything came together and I received a subject award for History and the subject prize for Legal Studies.

Achievements to date
My Stage 2 results qualified me for a place at the University of Adelaide to study a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Law degree (majoring in History, a minor in English, with an additional Politics elective for the former).

Since leaving Marden, there has been a slight adjustment but no overall change in my direction. My original intent was to complete these degrees and do a Grad Dip Ed in teaching at the end.

I made the decision to commence my teaching degree earlier than originally planned and have not regretted it, as I feel that is where my real direction is.

Today and the future
I have nearly finished the requirements for my Arts degree and am into the second year of my teaching qualification. I am unsure about Law at the moment. In the meantime, I am focused on maintaining a good grade average and getting straight down to business upon graduation by securing employment as a teacher.
Sarah

Coming to Marden
After high school I worked fulltime in retail for 13 years which was unrewarding, and tried other avenues which still didn’t give me satisfaction.

Then I had children and my main focus was to ensure that they were encouraged to believe in themselves and to follow their dreams.

I realised that I also had an opportunity to grow and learn new skills and to add to my life experiences so I decided to return to study and enrolled at Marden Senior College.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I studied Business Administration Certificates II and III, as well as Accounting and found this to be most enjoyable, as it provided food to feed my mind, something that was lacking in my life.

The teachers and trainers were always helpful and always there to help me overcome obstacles when at times I felt I was not achieving my goals.

During this time I also made a couple of good friendships which continue to be part of my social life today.

Achievements to date
Since completing my certificates at Marden I was given an opportunity to work at Marden Senior College in Student Services. This has allowed my confidence and knowledge to grow.

Today and the future
As a result of this employment experience, I was offered and have accepted another position at the Open Access College where I am currently working in Client Services.

I appreciate all the skills and knowledge gained during my time as a Marden student and being given the opportunity to follow a new career path.

I look forward to new endeavours and challenges to add to my life experiences.

“Never give up; there is always someone who will encourage and support you to keep on track. There are times you will feel it’s too hard but this experience teaches you patience and perseverance. Believe in yourself.

Life is short, but it’s never too late to change your pathway.”
Scarlett

Coming to Marden
I decided to do Year 13 to improve my Tertiary Entrance Score and in particular to study Legal Studies as I had an interest in pursuing a career in Law. My former school did not offer Legal Studies as a subject at that time. After deliberations about my options I made a personal choice to study at Marden Senior College. The adult learning environment, its central location, accessibility by public transport, flexibility in the timetable and curriculum offerings were important in arriving at this decision.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I studied Economics, Accounting, Legal Studies, Biology and English. The high calibre of professional, talented, knowledgeable, engaging and motivating teachers who taught me reinvigorated my interest in learning and passion in the Business discipline. The unique attribute and benefits of an adult-learning environment enabled me to develop my capability and capacity to be disciplined, organized and use my initiative to become an effective self-directed learner. Upon reflection, this experience paved the way for my success in further studies at undergraduate and post-graduate levels at the University of South Australia and Monash University. Socially, I established lifelong friendships with like-minded individuals with whom I shared interests and the desire to learn.

“Education sets a foundation for life long learning. Everyday provides the opportunity to seek, learn and express one’s individuality. Showing positive emotions, engagement in what we do, connecting with the community including students and teachers, finding meaning and purpose in every interaction and activity enables us to accomplish our goals and be the person we can be.”

Achievements to date
Since studying at Marden I have achieved both Business and Education qualifications.

- Masters of Education (Policy, Leadership & Change), Monash University
- Bachelor of Education (Secondary Business) & Bachelor of Business (Administrative Management), University of South Australia

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Emma

Achievements to date
Toward the end of last year, I was offered a position in the Honours program within Physiotherapy. This involves doing a research degree concurrently with the Physiotherapy program.

Today and the future
Currently I am completing my Honours project in the area of pediatric physiotherapy with the aim of working as a pediatric physiotherapist when I graduate at the end of next year (2016).

My goal is to complete my Bachelor of Physiotherapy with First-Class Honours and my dream job is a position at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne.

Scarlett

Achievements to date
I have held various roles in the corporate sector in the fields of Human Resources, Employee Relations and Learning and Development in the banking, manufacturing and government sectors. I have also worked in Education and Training, both as a Lecturer and a Coordinator at TAFE SA, and as Teaching and Learning Coordinator at Mt Carmel College.

Today and the future
In the last three years I have worked in various leadership roles at Christian Brothers College. I have found teaching Business Studies has enabled me to bring a balance of real-life practical application blended with theoretical constructs.

My current role as a Vocational Education and Training Coordinator enables me to engage with developing the capabilities of young people and guide them towards making decisions about their preferred pathways. I look towards continuing a career where my interests in business management, public policy, education, law and governance will be realized.