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 eleventh 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.

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Coming to Marden Senior College
I decided to enrol at Marden Senior College in 2006 in order to obtain an ATAR after my Year 12 studies, the previous year, were interrupted by medical issues.

Experience at Marden Senior College
My time at Marden has had a positive impact on my life. I found the teachers to be knowledgeable, approachable, and always happy to provide support and constructive feedback.

Initially, I chose to study four subjects. However, due to ongoing medical issues, I reluctantly had to reduce my study load. Although my remaining two subjects were a struggle, I was determined to complete them. With the support, encouragement and understanding of my teachers, I was able to successfully achieve this and gained outstanding achievement awards for both subjects. These added to my Year 12 subject results and enabled me to gain a high ATAR score.

After the positive experience I had during the year I spent at Marden, I decided to return two years later to undertake a Certificate III in Business Administration. Once again I found the facilitators to be very informative, helpful and supportive. I chose to do the course at Marden because it offered a “virtual office” which enabled me to gain practical experience in an office environment alongside the theory. The Business Administration skills I developed prepared me for further study and ultimately enabled me to gain employment.

Upon completion of my course I was able to utilise my skills by providing administrative support in areas of the College. My relationship with Marden continues as I still keep in touch with some of my teachers.

Achievements to date
After leaving Marden I went on to complete a Certificate IV in Legal Services at TAFE. During this time I gained casual employment as a Peer Educator with the Legal Services Commission, followed by a permanent position as a Legal Secretary/Personal Assistant with a legal firm.

Today and the future
I am currently furthering my education by studying Japanese and hope to visit Japan and continue with my passion for learning.

“Life is full of hurdles. The key is to not give up and to keep striving forward.”
Arthur

Coming to Marden Senior College
I returned to school because it was the pathway to a University education.

I came to Marden because it was close to where I lived at the time. Most importantly, Marden offered me the relevant subjects I needed to gain a SACE qualification and enter University. I was counselled by teachers about the opportunities that existed (and still exist) at Marden.

Experience at Marden Senior College
My experience at Marden was incredible with tremendous support from the teaching faculty. The learning resources and facilities were very useful and readily accessible. Having been away from formal learning for about 13 years, returning to school was the most challenging experience I set for myself.

At Marden, I studied Geography, Mathematical Applications, Economics, Legal Studies and English as a Second Language. These subjects were well-suited to my interests and where I wanted to go professionally.

I was fortunate to meet a wonderful academic staff that was readily available to provide support, guidance and encouragement.

During my studies, I represented Marden Senior College at an African Evening commemorating the anniversary of the African Union at the Adelaide Town Hall. In my Geography class, I was involved in the revegetation program around Third Creek at Marden, replacing exotic plants with native vegetation to improve the area’s biodiversity.

At the end of my studies at Marden Senior College, I was awarded the Caltex Best All Rounder Award 2007.

Achievements to date
In 2008, I enrolled at the University of Adelaide where I studied a Bachelor of Economics from which I graduated in 2011 and a Bachelor of Laws (graduated in 2012).

During my university studies I undertook a winter school course in Singapore in July 2010. This was part of my Economics Degree. In 2011, I went on a full year International Exchange Program (Adelaide Abroad) to Utrecht University in the Netherlands. This gave me the opportunity to travel around Europe and the US.

Today and the future
I am currently employed with the SA State Government in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure in the Contracting and Procurement Section. My work involves preparing tender and contract documents for several business units within the department. My group also provides advice to our clients in relation to contractual and tender related matters. I am also involved in policy development and departmental statutory reporting requirements.

As for future goals, I want to be a career public servant contributing to the government’s objectives of delivering services to the community at large.

“Always start a journey knowing where you are going.”
Danielle

**Coming to Marden Senior College**
I decided to study a subject at Marden after hours to explore the options outside of what my private school provided. I pursued SACE Year 12 Photography, during my Year 11 studies.

**Experience at Marden Senior College**
My 2005 Photography class was, to say simply, brilliant. Not only because I felt I was doing something a little different and enjoyable, but because I was given the opportunity to learn a skill from the ground up; a skill that I very quickly came to love.

Marden’s teachers and curriculum are always doing their absolute best for the betterment of education for their students. My time at Marden gave me a great enthusiasm for learning and encouraged me to pursue the things I love.

With a little hard work from me, and a lot of leg work from those around me, I completed my Photography subject with a fantastic SACE score and even won an award for my efforts.

Although I graduated several years ago now, my involvement with Marden continues to this day. As a professional photographer I have been invited to exhibit my photography in the College’s regular Fringe events, and was fortunate enough to be invited back as guest speaker at the 2013 MSC Fringe exhibition.

It is a great pleasure for me to know that my relationship with Marden and its staff is ongoing.

I am thankful for the high standard of education that Marden provided me. The qualities of the programs and its teachers have honestly played such an important role in my education and career. To be fortunate enough to have had this as my starting point in adult life has been invaluable.

**Achievements to date**
Since studying at Marden, I have continued on in the photographic field and earned my Advanced Diploma of Commercial Photography at TAFE SA. Furthermore, in 2010 I travelled to Melbourne to study the BA Photography course at RMIT where I achieved my Degree (with honours).

I have been involved in exhibitions in both Adelaide and Melbourne, winning awards here and there, and am blessed to be involved in an industry for which I have such passion.

**Today and the future**
Currently I work for both Atkins Technicolour and for myself here in Adelaide, shooting fine art, portraiture and weddings.
James

**Coming to Marden Senior College**
As a teenager and very young adult I had misspent my youth which included hardly ever going to school and dropping out at a young age. I failed, at that age, to realise the importance of education and the future ramifications it would have on my life. In my mid-twenties I obtained a job as a freight handler. I soon realised this job was not well suited to me and with new found maturity, I resumed my education, after 10 years, at Marden Senior College.

**Experience at Marden Senior College**
It soon became evident that resuming my education was a great decision. This realisation was aided by the wonderful teaching staff at Marden Senior College who treated me with respect and as an adult, despite my student status. My teachers soon sparked within me a love of knowledge particularly in the areas of writing and science. This new spark in conjunction with high quality teaching and a more mature outlook on life lead me to achieve high grades in subjects such as English, Biology and Nutrition.

**Achievements to date**
Upon graduation I received the award for Academic Excellence in Nutrition. I achieved an ATAR (university entrance score) of 94.55 and with the bonus points afforded by attending a unique school such as Marden, my score was increased to 99.9 for nearly all courses. This left me with an extensive choice of university degrees to pursue.

With expert help from Marden’s career counsellors, I applied for and was accepted into Medical Radiation Science (Medical Imaging stream) at UniSA.

Despite moving on to bigger and better things I look back fondly at my time at Marden and miss joking around with teachers, playing basketball at lunchtime and most of all, the sausage sizzles.

“Education is the key and it’s never too late.”

**Today and the future**
At the moment I spend my days studying courses such as anatomy, radiation physics, physiology and medical imaging as a second year student at UniSA. A large part of my day is spent doing hands-on learning in laboratories and x-ray suites where I practice positioning fellow students for x-rays and taking real x-rays of phantoms.

This year I undertook my first work placement in a hospital where, for three weeks, I was able to apply what I have learnt as a student radiographer. I was also recently accepted into Golden Key, an international honour society for students who excel academically.

Upon graduation I look forward to being a radiographer and hope to go on to do part-time post-graduate study in the field of Sonography. In the mean time I have been offered jobs as an MRI assistant, a far cry from the troubled teen or the freight handler I was before attending Marden Senior College.
Jody

Coming to Marden Senior College
Thirty one years after leaving school I enrolled at Marden to begin my re-education and to learn new skills with computer applications.

Experience at Marden Senior College

The courses involved learning computer applications such as Photoshop, Illustrator, Maya 3D, Digital Photography and studio skills.

I found the courses very challenging as I had not been in formal education for a long time. The teaching staff were excellent and the photography facilities were wonderful.

As the year progressed I became more confident and was able to create a photographic portfolio with the intention of applying for further study.

My time at Marden allowed me to develop sound computer skills and the confidence I needed to continue to pursue further study. Marden was my beginning point and gave me the confidence to continue and pursue my passion and now the possibilities just keep increasing for me.

Achievements to date
Upon leaving Marden I applied for the Advanced Diploma in Digital Photography at Tea Tree Gully TAFE. I was successfully selected for the two year course which I commenced in 2013.

I have completed one year of the course and have learnt many new skills with the camera and computer applications.

I have also been able to gain work in the photography industry and have made many new associations with other working professionals.

Today and the future
My future goal is to gain employment with the State Library in the archival department using my photography skills to record historical objects.

“I believe that every journey in life has a beginning and the possibilities that unfold along the way only occur if you have the courage to start.”
Karen

Coming to Marden Senior College
After working in a job that I’d found to be tedious and unrewarding I decided to take a step in a new direction and learn skills in something that captured my interest. I enrolled in Certificate II Business at Marden Senior College.

Experience at Marden Senior College
My utmost gratitude goes to the trainers, staff, and my fellow team members at Marden Senior College for believing in me and helping me to reach my goals.

Upon completion of Certificate II in 2011, I was encouraged to continue in 2012 to complete Certificate III Business Administration and incorporate a Research Project in order to obtain my SACE. I accepted the opportunity willingly.

My Research Project study was ‘How to Create A Successful Trade Fair Booth’. I chose this as I was aware that as part of the Certificate III Business Administration curriculum my class would be participating in the Virtual Enterprise Australia International Trade Fair, where we would be required to run our own trading booth.

I nominated myself as the ‘class/team events co-ordinator’ for creating and working on the booth. When I presented my team with my proposition, they jumped on board immediately to assist me in reaching my goals. Through my research I created an enthusiastic, highly co-operative team who, with my guidance, created an outstanding VEA Trade Fair booth.

My skills in events management blossomed and my understanding of business administration developed beyond our classroom learning. Our VEA Trade Fair booth was an enormous attraction at the event. To complete this overwhelming feeling of success our team received a first place award for the ‘Highest number of sales made’ which in my interpretation is ‘Most successful Trade Fair booth’.

My confidence increased considerably throughout the project. I came to realise that I enjoy challenges and that motivation and perseverance are skills I possess and embrace as part of my enthusiastic personality. I had gone from being a shy little wallflower to becoming a successful, goal-driven team leader.

Achievements to date
I achieved my SACE, and was invited to be the Student Responder at the Open Access College and Marden Senior College Registered Training Organisation Graduation, to speak of my successes. I was commended on the speech that I presented and was told that it was inspirational.

Today and the future
Since graduating I have become an active volunteer at North East Community House, on the Events Management Team which was responsible for organising an extremely successful, 2013 North East Community Day. The event was bigger and better than ever!

Being a part of the small, hard-working events team is an enormously fulfilling experience. This has been a huge stepping stone for me in gaining qualified work experience towards my future ambitions and goals.
Kate

**Coming to Marden Senior College**
There was never a defining point, when I decided I would go back to school, and complete my SACE. After spending three years out of high school, I discovered how difficult it is to find work, and to achieve worthwhile milestones, without the platform of having your schooling behind you, which is when I decided going back to school was imperative for me, and my future.

**Experience at Marden Senior College**
My experience at Marden was an adventure that was exciting and tumultuous at times. I began my Marden journey halfway through 2010, as I had decided the day before I officially started, that I would go back to school.

Some of my most memorable recollections are of the amount of support and encouragement I received from my teachers. Prior to Marden I had experienced a lot of negative comments from individuals in my life who said that there was no way I would finish school, and that I shouldn’t bother. Having the staff encourage me and tell me that I was worthwhile and smart, developed my self-esteem and self-worth, which has helped me achieve my goals over the past three years.

Marden gave me solid structure in my life, as I had a goal to achieve and I had a responsibility to turn up every day, and that helped me in all aspects of my life, as I felt like I had a reason to live, and a reason to get up each morning. In 2010, I studied two subjects, Maths for a semester, as I hadn’t quite completed my Maths component in high school, and a semester of English. Both subjects were the equivalent of Year 10 level.

In 2011 I decided to do Year 12, completing over two years, as I believed that it would
“Never give up on your dreams in life, as you can achieve anything, if you have faith in yourself.

Even when people around you, don’t believe in what you’re doing, don’t lose faith, as your determination will ultimately see you achieve your goals.”

give me more time, and I would achieve better results. I did two subjects in 2011, English Communications and Health. I enjoyed both and had supportive teachers who helped me gain more confidence. In 2012, I did three subjects, Society and Culture, Business and Enterprise and the Research Project. Again I had supportive teachers which made the year enjoyable and rewarding.

The most significant part of studying at Marden for me, was the support of my tutor and the counsellor, as there were times when I would get discouraged and disheartened about how I was going. They would always be willing to take the time to talk me through it, and give me a fresh perspective. Without that support I would more than likely have given up. They never wavered in their belief that I could succeed, and I did. I will always be grateful to them and Marden, for changing my life, and changing my future.

Achievements to date
Upon graduation from Marden, in 2012, I applied for different University courses, and I was fortunate enough to receive my first preference, a Bachelor of Social Work at UniSA Magill.

Today and the future
I have just completed my first year, and have enjoyed every minute of it, as it has opened my eyes to different beliefs, new friendships, new and exciting information about the world of Social Work, and what my career will be like when I finish my degree.
“It is never too late to complete your high school education. Events may occur that stop your path right now, but Marden Senior College makes it possible for you to have a second chance.”

Renae

Coming to Marden Senior College
After leaving school in Year 11, I realized the importance of completing my education and I had heard good things from past Marden students. I was in Melbourne at the beginning of 2010 but for personal reasons I had to come back to Adelaide, about 2 weeks into the commencement of term 1.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I was hesitant to finish my schooling because of the high stress I experienced associated with my previous school environment. My mum reminded me of Marden Senior College where my sister had previously completed a Photography course, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

We contacted Marden to arrange starting SACE Stage 2. The staff were extremely helpful and were able to accommodate me in all the courses I wanted - Maths Methods, Physics and IT Studies. I was offered the flexibility to spread Year 12 over two years so I was still able to work part time. I started my studies straight away with no hassles.

I completed all three courses and received an outstanding achievement award for IT Studies and Maths at the annual presentation ceremony. I went on to complete my Stage 2 in 2011 studying Accounting and Research Project, I was very happy that Marden offered Accounting. At that stage I still had no idea what I wanted to do in the future, however, the Accounting course (which is not available in many high schools) helped me find the field I wished to pursue.

Over the two years I spent at Marden I found my teachers were all extremely dedicated to their subjects. It is so much easier to do well and enjoy a subject when it is taught with enthusiasm and a love for the field. Many people see Physics and Accounting as dull, boring subjects, however because of my teachers, these were the subjects I enjoyed the most.

The mature atmosphere at Marden is a great approach to teaching; it was a big change to my previous schooling, but in a positive way. Students are encouraged to show initiative, are treated like an adult and have greater responsibility for their own learning. However, there is still immense support from the teaching staff. I found this to be an integral part of the transition between high school and higher education, making studying at university and the ‘life beyond school’ less of a shock to the system.

Achievements to date
I completed my SACE, receiving an outstanding achievement award for both subjects and was also lucky enough to be awarded the Marden Senior College’s Principals’ Scholarship at the end of 2011. This scholarship was valued at $5,000 and went towards my University of Adelaide study.

Today and the future
After leaving Marden I commenced my Commerce degree at the University of Adelaide, majoring in Accounting and Finance. My Accounting studies at Marden along with a great reference from my Accounting teacher secured me a part time job as a Junior Accountant halfway through my first year of university study.

I am still happily working at the same job and am due to complete my degree at the end of 2014. After university I hope to attain my CPA at one of the big four accounting firms, giving myself a solid grounding for any future accounting careers I wish to pursue.
Talia

Coming to Marden Senior College
For a number of reasons my first attempt at
Year 12 was not successful. I did not achieve the
grades I needed to go to University so I enrolled
at Marden Senior College to repeat Year 12 and
improve my ATAR so that I could progress to
University.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I really enjoyed my experience at Marden. I found
it very different from my previous school; it was
a much more motivating environment. As it was
an adult re-entry college I was able to escape high
school dramas and bullying. The teachers were
supportive and helped me achieve my goal of
achieving good grades. They also worked with
me to let me to negotiate my workload and meet
deadlines.

As a result of the rapport I developed with my
teachers, I was once again an A/B student and
I enjoyed school again. I received the subject
award for Women’s Studies at the end of the year
presentation ceremony. This was my favourite
subject as I found the development of women’s
rights incredibly interesting. I also did Child Studies
and loved the activities in this course. I made a
blanket which I gave to a friend for her baby. I
also studied PE, Psychology and Health.

I found Marden offered a much broader range of
subjects than my previous high school.

The environment was supportive from both staff
and other students. I really appreciated the effort
and compassion from the teachers and how
much they would support anyone who wanted
to succeed. I really enjoyed the flexible learning
environment and the ability to come and go just
for my lessons. I enjoyed this type of school life.

Attending Marden was fun! I made many friends
at Marden, who I am still friends with today.

Achievements to date
I achieved an ATAR of 91.4, almost double what I
achieved in my first attempt at Year 12.

I was accepted into Midwifery at UniSA in the first
round of offers. I started my course in 2010 and
completed in December 2012.

“"If you don’t succeed
the first time, there is no
shame and no reason
not to try again.""

Marden Senior College prepared me
for Uni life, assignments and exams.
I enjoyed Uni as it had a similar
environment to Marden.

Today and the future
I now work as a Registered Midwife at
the Women’s and Children’s Hospital. I
am completing my graduate program
and am looking into continuing study at
Uni and working part time as a Midwife
so that I will have the skills to be able to
work in a diversity of areas and increase
my job opportunities.

I love all aspects of my job as it is
challenging and forever changing and
I find myself constantly learning and
adapting to new roles.
“Marden is a wonderful place to study and learn. It fosters the opportunity to really achieve in your life through having a great education. Enjoy it and make the most of your time there.”

Terry

Coming to Marden Senior College
I left school on completion of Year 11. After 36 years I enrolled at Marden Senior College as I wanted to see if I could manage undertaking Year 12 subjects.

Experience at Marden Senior College
I felt immensely well supported at Marden. All the teachers were fantastic. I completed Year 12 Modern History, Geography and Environmental Studies.

I surprised myself and gained outstanding achievement awards for all subjects. My teachers helped me to grow in confidence and achieve beyond my expectations.

During my time at Marden I gained essential skills in using the computer, learning how to research and to write essays. I also felt really at home at Marden and made some lifelong friends.

Achievements to date
After completing Modern History and Geography I applied to Flinders University, and was accepted. I completed a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education in 2009.

I returned to Marden in 2011 and completed Environmental Studies. This was an area which I felt very passionate about and so I applied to study a Bachelor of Environmental Management at Flinders University.

Today and the future
Today I work three days a week as a Registered Nurse and am studying a Bachelor of Environmental Management with a half time load, at Flinders University.

I know I would not have had the confidence to go to University if I had not attended Marden Senior College.