



# Marden Matters

## From the Principal



As the year draws to a close it is opportune to reflect on what has been achieved this year and consider future directions.

This improvement journey has been defined by a collective commitment from all staff to 'inspire and empower students to develop capabilities for personal excellence and successful futures'. This shared vision and purpose is embedded in our MSC Strategic Plan and its priorities: enhancing teaching and learning, fostering inclusivity and wellbeing and strengthening ties with community. The School Improvement Plan is a systemic framework with goals and actions, and seamlessly aligns with our MSC Strategic Plan to ensure continuous development and growth:

- teachers have been involved in the ongoing development of high impact differentiation and literacy strategies (recount to reflection and the use of innovative IT editing tools) as well as regular interrogation of data sets to inform curriculum, task design and pedagogical practice
- a responsive mentoring program promoting strong connections with our students and parents/carers
- increased parent communication and participation in college events including the 'Building Relationships with Young People' parent workshops.
- a successful Department for Education External School Review process and visit

acknowledging Marden's improvement journey

- Increased student participation in the Student Life program, career workshops, student-led activities and co-curricular opportunities
- Chief Executive, Department for Education, Martin Westwell visited the college and praised our values driven practice and inclusive and welcoming learning environment and personalised learning program to facilitate individual student success.

Staff met on December 6 to work on college, learning area and individual teacher priorities and requirements in readiness for the 2024 school year. These common understandings will progress strategic, organisational and educational priorities. Marden Senior College is committed to maintaining its reputation as a high performing innovative college that champions equity and success for all learners as reflected in our motto, 'Your Pathway to Success'. We are very proud that the college's values of excellence, respect and diversity through the lens of a flexible and success orientated community, differentiates our uniqueness. As a quality public education provider, we offer a broad range of SACE subjects and VET courses in the context of acceptance and success for all, facilitated by a flexible learning environment and committed and passionate staff. Extending this is an ongoing and rewarding challenge that requires continual analysis, review and reflection.

To all students who have experienced the highs and lows of learning and planning post school pathways, well done for your commitment, persistence and resilience. These are valuable life-long skills that you will need to draw on as you face life's many challenges. To students who are completing their SACE or a VET Certificate, this term probably marks the end of your secondary schooling and the beginning of a range of new and exciting possibilities and directions. The college recognised the successes of our students at our recently held Presentation Night and RTO

Graduation Ceremony. Both events highlighted the achievements of our students and were a heartfelt and fitting acknowledgment and farewell.

On behalf of the Marden Senior College staff, I wish all of you every success in whatever pathway you choose over the coming years. For the many students returning to study in 2024, we look forward to building upon your successes this year and helping you realise your goals and pathways. Parents/carers form a significant partner in the learning experience for many of our students and we value this partnership and thank you for your positive support and ongoing communications with teachers and mentors.

I thank the Marden Senior College staff for their efforts in providing students with the best environment and learning opportunities throughout the year. Their expertise and commitment to support individual student success has been particularly evident this year, but even more so over the course of Term 4 with final SACE and VET assessments and exams. At the end of the year, we farewell the following staff members: Erin Papps, Brennan Dimmell and acknowledge the retirement of Mandy Rego and Matoula Potiris. Thank you for your commitment to high quality public education and to the Marden community over the years and all the best with your new schools and directions.

The college opens again on January 15 in order to accept enrolments. Please encourage anyone who might be interested in Marden's offerings to visit the college website at [msc.sa.edu.au/enrol](http://msc.sa.edu.au/enrol) and submit an enrolment enquiry.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and Festive Season and I look forward to seeing you in 2024.



## From the Pastoral Care Worker

In the last line of my first article in Marden Matters this Year at the end of Term 1 I wrote;  
*"In a blink, it will be summer, holidays and new adventures."*

Open your eyes! Its Summer and its holidays!  
(A little hard to believe with all the rain...)

For those students leaving us, all too soon you will become acutely aware of how time rushes by. Whether employed or undertaking further study, time will press upon you and continue to fly. But you've got this! You have been here before; assignments need to be done, projects finished, exams prepared for; you have done it, here at Marden.

You have run the race, overcome the obstacles, experienced the pressure and come through the finish line. I congratulate you. I wish you all the very best for the coming weeks and months. Thank you for being part

of the Marden Community, for your support of activity, for participating in events. Whatever the outcome of your endeavours here, don't forget that aircraft from my article in Term 2's edition; despite the cloudy and dull look and feeling, above the clouds an aircraft is bursting through into brilliant, dazzling sunshine. It is inevitable. The sun is always shining.

Some folk reading this will be returning to our campus in 2024. Thank you too! Be assured of the same level of care and concern for you. Be assured the same level of support is available and, if you need more, again, be assured, just ask! I look forward to being with you, supporting, encouraging you and ensuring you have the best possible opportunity for success. I hope you are able to give thought to being part of our Student Governance – our SGA. I hope you look forward to our annual events, most especially our Formal. For you too the sun always shines.

Many reading Marden Matters for first time, will be students newly enrolled. Once again, many thanks for choosing Marden. I look forward to working with you too, being a support for you as necessary in your journey with us. I hope you will become involved in various activities, designing our School Jumper, once again, the formal and significantly, our Student Governing Association – SGA, through which you enjoy the opportunity for leadership and student voice.

Whether you are leaving, returning or joining us for the first time, there is this in common; our thanks and a pledge for support, an assurance of encouragement and a commitment to success.

Tim Wells

## Presentation Night 2023

The 2023 Marden Senior College Presentation Night was celebrated in grand style on Monday 27 November at the Norwood Concert Hall. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of our students and celebrate their success at the end of the school year.

The evening was made especially memorable by the musical performance sung by Stage 1 student Lilah Sabey.

Joel Ransom, chair of the SGA, spoke wonderfully of his experience at Marden and wished all his peers the best for the future.

The 2023 Ampol Best All Rounder Award winner was Kirsh Rampal. He expressed his appreciation to his teachers for their ongoing support throughout his schooling journey.

Fei Wang was the recipient of the 2023 Long Tan Future Innovators Award. Noah Castle was the 2023 Long Tan Leadership Award. Brydie Somerville-Dennison was the winner of the 2023 Muriel Matters Award.





## Student Success

Congratulations to Joshua Lisichin-Downes on receiving the Rotary Club of St Peters Student Design and Creativity Award. Joshua is a worthy recipient as he has displayed exceptional creativity, skill and perseverance in designing and completing his Certificate III Screen and Media – Game Design certificate.



## 2024 Enrolments

Students are reminded that if intending to continue studies at Marden Senior College in 2024 you are required to enrol via our course counselling interview process.

Bookings are now open and we encourage parents to be a part of this process if appropriate.

To make an appointment please call the College on 8366 2800 or visit [msc.sa.edu.au/enrol](http://msc.sa.edu.au/enrol)



## SACE Information



## STUDENTS ONLINE

### ACCESSING YOUR SACE RESULTS:

Your end of year SACE results will be available on Monday 18 December 2023 from 8.30am through the SACE website Students Online at <https://apps.sace.sa.edu.au/students-online/login.do>.

Information regarding students online can be found at [www.sace.sa.edu.au/studying/your-sace/what-is-students-online](http://www.sace.sa.edu.au/studying/your-sace/what-is-students-online) or through the Marden Senior College website, [www.msc.sa.edu.au/sace-information](http://www.msc.sa.edu.au/sace-information).

It is important that you check to ensure that you have access to Students Online before results are published on Students Online.

When logging into Students Online, your username is your SACE Registration Number and your Password is your day and month of birth in DDMM format.

If you are a Marden student and cannot find your SACE Registration Number you may contact Student Services on 8366 2800 or email [info@msc.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@msc.sa.edu.au).

If you have any issues accessing Students Online, contact the SACE Board on the details below:

Email: [askSACE@sa.gov.au](mailto:askSACE@sa.gov.au)

Phone: +61 8 8115 4712 from 8.30am to 5pm (Australian Central Daylight Time) Monday to Friday

Freecall for SA country students: 1800 652 230

Brennan Dimmell

SACE Co-ordinator  
Marden Senior College  
Ph: 8366 2888

E: [bdimmell@msc.sa.edu.au](mailto:bdimmell@msc.sa.edu.au)

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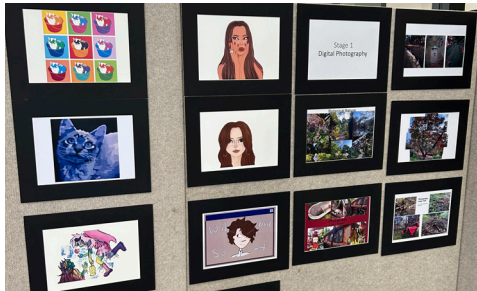
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## MSC Art Exhibition – 15 November



## RTO Graduation Ceremony

The RTO Graduation Ceremony was held on Tuesday 12 December at the OAC Hall. Graduates of Marden Senior College Registered Training Organisation were presented with their certificates. Guest speakers included Karen McPhee, Pathways Advisor for Department for Education and MSC graduate Anna Berdashkevich, Animator Rising Sun Pictures. Student speaker, Jaydon Nelson talked about the benefits of collaboration and working with peers to overcome challenges to create industry standard products in Screen and Media.

We congratulate students on their success and wish them all the best for their future careers.





## Finance Matters

Results of Poll: Materials and Services Charges 2024 for Marden Senior College

In October 2023, a Poll was undertaken in accordance with The Education and Children's Services Act 2019 and the Materials and Services charges Administrative Instructions and Guidelines, regarding the legal collection of the Materials and Services Charge for 2024.

The results of the Poll are as follows:

**YES - 30 NO - 14 NOT APPLICABLE - 1**

The Principal has reviewed the Poll results on behalf of the Chief Executive, Department for Education, and approved the proposed charge to be the legally recoverable amount for 2024.

APPROVED CHARGE:

**\$125.00 + subject charges**

## Governing Council 2024

Vacancies exist for parents/carers to join our Governing Council in 2024. The purpose of these meetings is to oversee the school budget and site improvement plan, as well as to discuss any other happenings at the college.

Further information and how to apply is available from our website here:

[www.msc.sa.edu.au/governing-council/](http://www.msc.sa.edu.au/governing-council/)

## Marden Education Centre Library



The library at Marden offers students many things: resources for learning, an area to study, help with research, a place to socialise and somewhere to just be. If I had one highlight from the Marden students this year, it would be the joy they have from interacting with Charlie, my trained Story Dog. As I watch Charlie go through his day, I realise he is teaching us all some life lessons if we just care to pay attention:

understand what is going on beneath the surface, as they are led by their instincts and rely on their gut reactions. We have these clues as well. Home in on your intuition and it will guide you to a life of peace and serenity.

### 5. Find balance.

When any of us have a traumatic situation, we can get off track and spend too much time focused on the situation, neglecting the other areas of our life. I have, at times spent too much time worrying about the problems of others. I've learned that we short-change not only ourselves, but those around us. Notice how well a dog does when their life is balanced. Dogs need their exercise, a dose of love, and structure to their daily routine, and so do we. When we balance our life, the stress fades to the background and we enjoy life that much more.

### 6. Set clear boundaries.

We teach others how to treat us. Many of us have a hard time setting boundaries that are clear and believable. We can waver and be indecisive, and those close to us may not know where our boundaries begin or end. Close, connected relationships start with clear and consistent communication. Our relationship with our dog is a perfect example. When the rules are clear, and enforced consistently, our pets do well; otherwise, they are confused about what is acceptable behaviour.

### 7. Find your purpose.

Have you ever wondered why you were placed here on earth? Sometimes we lose our way and are not sure about our true purpose. The same is true for dogs. When dogs are given a job and contribute in some way to the well-being of others, they feel a sense of satisfaction. As humans, we need to find our purpose as well. When we take the time to discover our purpose in life, we feel more fulfilled, and our life feels more meaningful.

### 8. Make every day special.

Sometimes we can let days go by and get swallowed up in our routine. Every day is the same and our excitement is lacking. Have you ever noticed how a dog finds everyday life exciting? They can't wait to eat, go for their walk, see you come home, or greet a visitor. We can learn so much by observing how our pets have enthusiasm for the simple joys of everyday life. Everyday can be special for us as well. When we take the time to look, we may find our joy is still there waiting to be rediscovered. (Transcript from – Cathy Taughinbaugh's article "What Dogs Teach Us about Peace, Joy, and Living in the Now")

Wishing all Staff and Students a wonderful break over the summer however you choose to spend it and a wonderful new year no matter where you are on this journey of life...just don't forget to pat a dog!

From Zoe Elliott, Library Manager, Marden Education Centre

### 1. Connect with others.

Our relationships with others nurture our soul. We may neglect our friends because of our work or other interests. We may just get busy and forget to stay in touch. When we look to our dogs, they need our connection daily. They need our love, time, and attention. When we stay connected with others, it feeds our soul and helps to lead us to a long life.

### 2. Live for today.

We can spend time regretting the past and worrying about the future, but I have learned that the solution will not be found that way. Spinning my wheels thinking about things that I cannot change is not productive. Dogs live for today—and so can we. We can appreciate every moment as it comes and be grateful for what we have. Like all animals, when we live in the present, we can have more enthusiasm, joy for life, and less worry.

### 3. Forgive.

Forgiveness may be something we consider but find difficult to really feel and carry out. The payoff in not forgiving is that we can continue to blame others for how we feel and remain the victim. When you study animal packs, there is rarely a conflict, as the members of the pack solve their problems and move on. They don't hold a grudge or worry about what happened yesterday. Forgiveness gives us back our power, as we regain a sense of wholeness, peace, and the ability to move on with our lives.

### 4. Trust your intuition.

Many of us have not developed or have lost touch with our intuition. We listen to words but neglect our inner feelings. We may feel uneasy about a certain situation, but neglect what our body is telling us. Dogs

## STUDENT WORK 2023

### A Gloomy Day on the Prairie – Anonymous

The autumn leaves shivered in the breeze,  
whilst the gloomy grey clouds collided with one another,  
A newborn squirrel let out a sneeze,  
As it hurried away to find warmth with its mother

A house on the prairie sat quietly on its own,  
As a soft flickering glow radiated from inside,  
A baked oven pie sending a familiar cologne,  
Led a trail of animals that had sneakily arrived.

The pattering rain began to slowly cease,  
as the sun became once again visible,  
The bird on the tree finally speaks,  
And the forest no longer seems miserable.



Emma Clark



Rachel Munro



Val Paterson



Brydie Somerville-Dennison

### Reconciliation Week – Joel Ransom

We welcome you all to this ceremony, to mark the beginning of national reconciliation week. I begin today by acknowledging the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the land which we gather on today, and we pay our respect to elder's past, present and emerging. We are honoured to have Allen Edwards, a first nations elder, who will perform a smoking ceremony for us all.

Before I handover to Allen, I would like to speak to you all about a powerful word, that is very relevant at this time of year, that word being: reconciliation. Now instead giving the formal definition of this word, I would instead like to share the lyrics of one of my favourite songs. Now bear with me, I am no Ed Sheeran when it comes to singing, so instead I will recite the lyrics:

"Gather 'round people, I'll tell you a story  
An eight-year long story of power and pride  
British Lord Vestey and Vincent Lingiari  
Were opposite men on opposite sides."

For those of you that didn't realise, those were the lyrics of From Little Things, Big Things Grow. The song recalls the brave Vincent Lingiari, who led 200 courageous First Nations stockmen and their families to walk off Wave Hill Cattle Station protesting the pay and work conditions. This dispute lasted up to 8 years, before the current Australian Prime Minister of the time, Gough Whitlam, poured a handful of red earth into Vincent Lingiari's right palm and said: "this land will be in the possession of you and your children forever".

You see many years ago, I would not have understood the weight of this story. I wouldn't have grasped the ongoing importance of these lyrics. Sadly enough, I would not have shown empathy where it was needed. That was all until I was given an opportunity. An opportunity that forever changed my perspective. In 2019, myself along with 9 other students were given the opportunity to attend a trip up to the APY Lands, in a small town called Pipalyatjara. We spent one week with the community but

returned with years' worth of memories and knowledge. We learnt the value of indigenous culture, traditions and customs, and its ongoing significance today. But also, we learnt the importance of understanding, accepting, and reflecting upon the wrongs of the past to reconcile the broken relationships that remain to this day. This is something that I hope you can all do, while sharing the pivotal stories of Vincent Lingiari and many others as we strive for something much more.

Throughout this week, we hope you all take this opportunity to learn about first nations culture and history and reflect upon how each of us can help contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Before I handover, I would like to thank all staff and students of the Student Government Association who have contributed to organising this week, and in particular Bet who has organised for Allen to join us today. Thank you, and I would now like to pass over to Allen.



## STUDENT WORK 2023

### My Dove? – Massiel Contreras Pena

How does one define the surrender of the heart,  
in such way those define as love.  
Rather a phenomenon, one I claimed perceived in part,  
in form of a rainbowed beauty of doves,  
with said love woven in the feather of their wings.

The breeze of time weathered them in,  
dove after dove.  
Their love-woven feathers interlacing themselves,  
through my heart strings.  
And their miscellaneous splatter of colours,  
painting the canvas of my loving.

And they leave their marks of love upon me,  
for they are the ones I say to have loved.

All of them being doves.

But when it's you, my heart is obliged,  
a remembrance upon every dove,  
that feathers' left its very beat deprived.

You're no dove, something not of my know,  
something not of lovers' illusory tales.  
Yet you bestow such rhapsodies upon my heart,  
solely your very being transcending its beat,  
into wonderful song.

From afar, you took flight in my eyes,  
and I saw for who you are- not a dove.  
Yet as you alight in my heart, I question for lies.

Your glory of wings enwrap my heart,  
in an embrace of warmth that prompts to rewrite my truth,  
and sinks feathers in place of bygone, withered shafts.  
And your picturesque of colours soak my canvas,  
in a bath of shades that melt into the perfect love,  
and dampens the blaze of shades before.

Yet I cannot ascertain if he is a dove.

Though it feels as if you are, mine.  
My dove.  
For he loves me the very same.

Makes me ponder, on and on,  
such a rather quaint question,  
over and over, as I fawn.

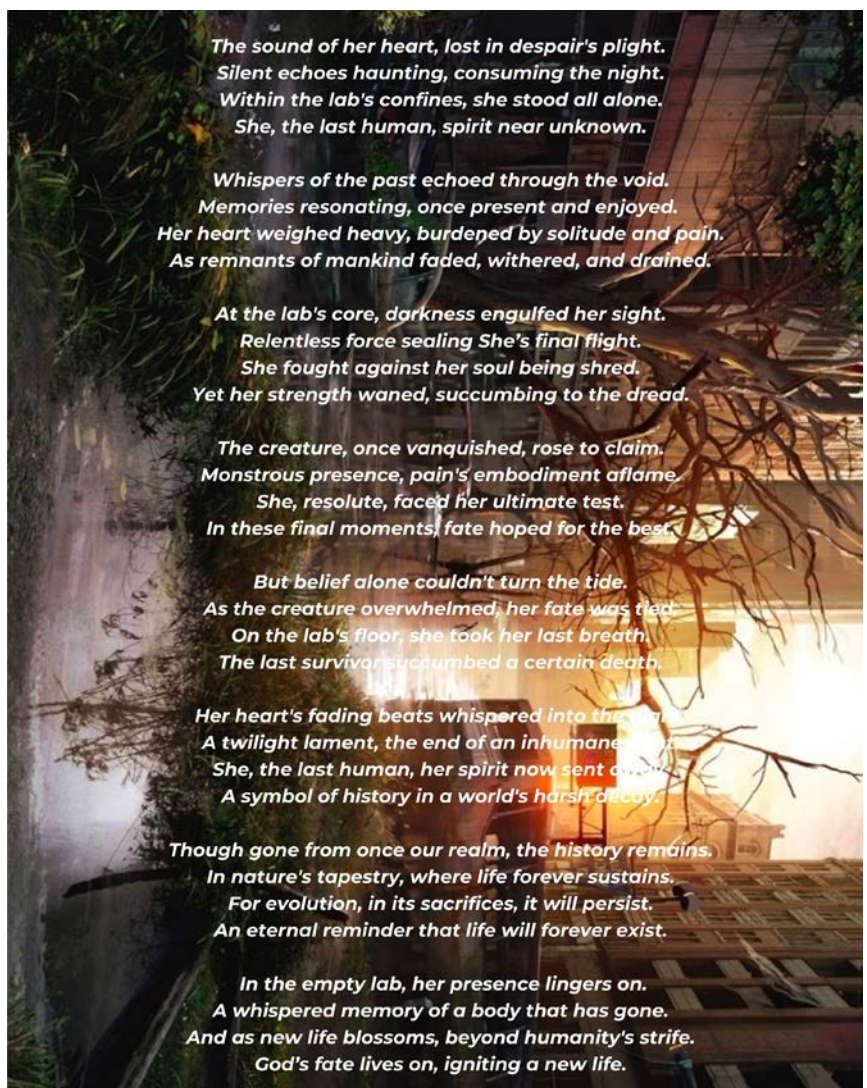
How does one define the surrender of the heart,  
in such way those define as falling in love.



Brydie Somerville-Dennison



Penny Kassos



Steven Pergoleto





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