



**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 16, November 2019

Aatmaj

Coming to Marden

I was offered a place to study dentistry after finishing Year 12, however, I rejected this offer in hopes of being accepted into my preferred course, medicine. Word of mouth had it that Marden provided an excellent opportunity to repeat SACE Stage 2, therefore I decided to enrol here. I am glad to be in a position today to uphold the veracity of the statements my friends had dictated to me a year ago.

Experience at Marden Senior College

Whenever sharing my experience at Marden, a triangle shape always comes to mind. I like to think that each of the vertices represents an important, yet an influential pillar of my academia and its bestowed successes. The first vertex exemplifies my teachers: who continuously strived to make me a global learner; teachers who have helped me get up when I have fallen and teachers who would reply to my emails on weekends.

The second vertex exemplifies my peers who have constantly kept me determined through having a common goal. Peers who were of help and came to me for help as well as peers who were willing to share memes with me.

Finally, the third vertex symbolises independence which has assisted me in becoming a mature-thinking student, independence which has taught me to worship the value of efficiency and independence that I resorted to when watching YouTube to relax.



I heard in an engineering documentary once, that triangle reinforcements are structurally strongest amongst other shapes. My experience at Marden is a direct simile to this, whereby integration of each of the three aspects have rooted my foundations to help me excel in my tertiary studies and beyond.

Achievements to date

My biggest achievement since graduation from Marden was getting an offer to study Bachelor of Clinical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine, a six-year course. Apart from receiving three subject merits in Chemistry, General Mathematics and Physics, I was also fortunate to be awarded a medallion from the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. At Marden, I was the recipient of the 2018 Caltex Best All Rounder Award, which recognised my academic achievements and volunteering at BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha Adelaide, a Hindu and civic organisation.

“Constantly remember the competition for what you are after.”



Bruce

Coming to Marden

I am on the Autism Spectrum and I didn't fit in at school, people were giving me a hard time, so I left in Year 10. I went on to do factory work and also started a photography course part-time in 2004. In 2007 I left factory work. Soon after that I heard an ad on the radio about Marden Senior College and decided to go back to school to complete Year 12. In the same year, I was also completing a Diploma in Photoimaging at the CCP (Centre for Creative Photography).

Experience at Marden Senior College

When enrolling at Marden, I chose subjects that I had a personal interest in such as Photography, Drama Studies and Community Studies. I received SACE units for the photography studies I had already completed. My interest in Drama Studies grew from my involvement with a theatre group. I chose Community Studies because I like helping people. My initial interest began with helping out in several roles at Autism SA.

Year 12 was challenging to begin with because I had not completed much

“Do something that interests you, learn as much as you can about it and put yourself out there with the knowledge you have.”

written work before. I talked with teachers and received help. I also changed from Drama Studies to Drama which helped make it possible for me to pass Year 12. I enjoyed my time at Marden and found Marden to be a supportive environment with teachers having an interest in the direction of my learning.

I received a Stage 2 Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition Prize and a Subject Merit Award in Photography. I completed Year 12, something I had wanted to do for years. Some of my photos were selected for the 2009 Marden Senior College Adelaide Fringe exhibition.

In the same year, I became one of the first people in Australia to complete a Diploma in Photoimaging. I was also one of the winners of the 2009 Autism SA Individual Achievement Award – for the age group of 13 years and older.

As part of Community Studies, I focused on my role of presenting on autism and also my role in assisting in getting an exhibition running for autistic individuals. Doing Drama instead of Drama Studies allowed me to focus on an individual study, which I did on autism, that involved presenting about autism and reviewing films on autism. This relates to the autism advocacy role I have now.

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Caroline

Coming to Marden

After graduating from a prestigious private school hoping to have fulfilled all my academic achievements, I was disappointed. As I was searching for a school to undertake year 13 in order to increase my ATAR, I came across Marden. It was the very broad range of subjects, adult learning environment and accessibility which grasped my attention.

Experience at Marden Senior College

Overall, my experience at Marden Senior College was exceptional. I completed five stage 2 subjects; Chemistry, General Mathematics, Health, Workplace Practices and Psychology. Through the guidance and support of my fantastic teachers at Marden, I was able to improve my previous ATAR immensely achieving an ATAR of 98.6. I achieved an A grade or above for these subjects and achieved two A+ with merits. What stood out for me was the teachers at Marden in comparison to my previous experience, who provided useful and achievable feedback on drafts. Furthermore, the structured exam revision booklets and workshops held during SWOTVAC, were advantageous.

I was able to adapt to the 'independent learning style' which was the key to successfully achieving my academic goals. I strongly believe this learning environment is very beneficial for students who plan on further educational studies. Additionally, my daily timetable was very flexible, with less contact hours than a regular structured school.



This allowed me to fit my extra-curricular activities into my schedule and maintain a balanced lifestyle.

Achievements to date

My ATAR allowed me to become eligible to apply for Medicine at a prestigious University interstate, which I am currently in the interview process for. I also received a first round offer into my first preference in Adelaide, Nuclear Medicine at UniSA.

Message to students:

To all the students wishing to complete their SACE and strive to achieve their personal best, this is my advice to you. It may seem challenging and almost impossible at times, but it will be over before you know it. Remember, your teachers are there to help you, so communicate with them and send in drafts. Try your best to meet deadlines, because if you fall behind you'll feel overwhelmed and won't be able to put your best work forward.

“Once you have completed your studies knowing you have put in your all, you’ll look back and be proud of what you have accomplished.”



Jason

Coming to Marden

I had a goal of becoming a police officer and believed Marden to be the first step to achieving that goal.

Experience at Marden Senior College

My time at Marden was an eventful one and was one of the most brilliant times of my life. I had ups and downs, met lots of new people and learnt many new lessons that have made me into a much wiser and complete human being. The teachers were amazing and I always got the help and support needed to push me to where I desired to be. The friends I made at Marden were great people and I still get emotional reminiscing about some of the memories I had and the experiences we shared. I chose to do year 12 over 2 years and it was the best decision I made.

“Being at Marden is a gift and you should treat it as such. Always be humble, be positive and always think BIG!”

It allowed me to not feel as pressured while enjoying my experience for longer.

I studied PE, English, Health, IPP and Research Project, all of which were wonderful. I would like to say a special thank you to my teachers at Marden for the kindness and compassion they showed me. I went to Marden as someone who didn't like school at all and was considered a “bad” student beforehand, but after attending Marden, I was blessed to have changed my view and appreciated all that Marden offers. I joined the Pedal Prix 3 times which was a lot more fun than I originally thought and became a member of the SGA at the end of 2016 which I enjoyed very much.

Achievements to date

I am currently studying a Certificate 3 in Police Studies while working at Coles part-time to eventually attain my goal of becoming a police officer.

Message to students:

Appreciate school because once you leave you WILL miss it. Trust your teachers because they all want what is best for you, especially at Marden. Marden is more than just a school, it's a community and full of support. Don't just “show up”, if you put in the time you will get so much out of it. See the passion that the teachers have, don't think they are against you.

Jeff

Coming to Marden

I decided to come to Marden to improve my ATAR.

Experience at Marden Senior College

My experience at Marden was amazing. I was very hesitant at the start to go back and do another year of year 12 as I saw all my friends going into university and starting their degrees.

When I finally decided to do year 13, I wanted to go to a school that was flexible around my full-time work as a Personal trainer and had proven teachers and success. Marden presented that opportunity. I knew if I could surround myself with like-minded students and teachers who believed in me, I would be able to achieve amazing results.

Despite struggling throughout the year to juggle full-time work and school, I always had the backing of my teachers and support of my peers. This pushed me to carry on achieve my best.



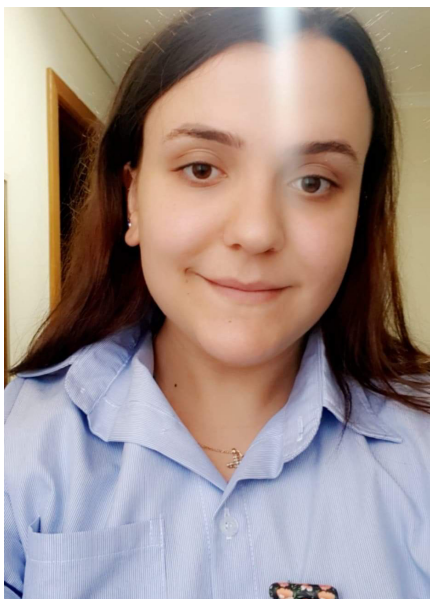
Achievements to date

Since graduating from Marden, I have entered my first year of Psychology honours at the University of New South Wales. I hope to become a clinical psychologist in the future.

Message to students:

Enjoy your high school experience! Marden is unlike any other high school. By coming to Marden you're surrounding yourself with peers that strive to exceed excellence and teachers that are experienced, kind and reliable.

“Enjoy your high school experience! Have confidence in your abilities and you can never fail.”



“Never give up, for this is the beginning of a new chapter for success, Marden will ensure your goals will become a reality.”

Jessica

Coming to Marden

I came to Marden in hope for a fresh start for my final 2018 schooling year. What attracted me into enrolling at Marden, was the high level of independence and freedom which I was exposed to throughout my Year 12 studies. Two factors which allowed me to achieve success and develop essential life skills included the independence of managing my timetable choice and the independence of ensuring I was organised.

Experience at Marden Senior College

The flexibility of the timetable allowed me to achieve success whilst working part time. I attended Marden on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This allowed me to meet both study and work commitments. I made many friends who made my time at

Marden highly enjoyable, I loved the free bread days, the vending machines and the cafeteria which provided delicious food. The teachers and other members of staff at Marden were incredible, I was given immense support, and my subject teachers went above and beyond to ensure I was staying track on all assignments, and never ceased to assist me.

Achievements to date

Since graduating from Marden, I achieved a high ATAR which allowed me to complete my goal of gaining entry into a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of South Australia. Once I graduate, I am hoping to move onto a Bachelor of Midwifery; whilst gaining employment in a hospital.

Namrata

Coming to Marden

My goal after graduating from high school was to go to medical school and become a doctor. Unfortunately after completing year 12 I did not receive any offers from university to study medicine. I was devastated but I decided to give it another go, and enrolled at Marden to improve my ATAR. I chose Marden because of the friendly environment, and independent learning opportunity it offered, unlike most high schools.

Experience at Marden Senior College

I had a very enjoyable experience at Marden. Studying as a year 13 student at Marden allowed me to meet and study with other students who were in a similar position. This along with the friendly and supportive environment at Marden allowed me to form lifelong friendships. I felt very accepted by the community and really enjoyed the activities provided by the school. The teachers at Marden were also very supportive and approachable, and I felt very comfortable in class, and confident in answering and asking questions to the teachers. I believe that the community and the adult learning environment really allowed me to thrive and reach my full potential.



Achievements to date

I graduated from Marden Senior College and received two merits in Nutrition and General Mathematics. I was lucky enough to have been offered a place at the University of Adelaide to study Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery, and am currently a first year medical student.

Message to students:

I think one of the most important things to take away from your Marden experience is to appreciate all of the memories you make with your friends and classmates. I would highly encourage everyone to get to know their classmates and participate in the activities provided by the college, and make the most of your experience, as these are the moments you will remember once you graduate from Marden.

“Make the most of your experience, as these are the moments you will remember once you graduate from Marden.”



Sophia

Coming to Marden

My time at Marden began in 2013 when I chose to undertake Stage 2 Biology, in addition to my Stage 1 studies. My school at the time could not accommodate this, so I began at Marden on Wednesday nights. I then graduated from my previous school in 2014 with an ATAR that I was very proud of, but unfortunately, was not quite enough for my dream tertiary course.

I looked no further than Marden Senior College as I viewed it as a place that

would support me in achieving my goal, whilst providing a unique adult learning environment that would offer me skills to assist me in my future tertiary studies.

Experience at Marden Senior College

I completed Stage 2 Nutrition, Mathematical Studies, Workplace Practices and Accounting over the years of 2015-2016, improving my ATAR considerably each year.

After graduating from high school, I was successful in obtaining employment as a Stylist at Australian Fashion Labels, a highly successful international fashion company based in Adelaide.

The aspect of Marden Senior College which most appealed to me most was the unique timetabling, including night classes, that allowed me to work towards my dream of studying a Bachelor of Dental Surgery at University while enabling me to work almost full time. Furthermore, I was able to apply the skills I gained in my employment to Stage 2 Workplace Practices, one of my favourite subjects that I completed at Marden. The independence that Marden Senior College provides is unlike any other institution and allows all students, including myself, to learn and reach their goals based on their own desire as opposed to conforming to the ideals of others.

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“Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.”

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Bruce

Achievements to date

Since leaving Marden I completed an Advanced Diploma of Screen & Media at MAPS film school Hamilton Senior College. During work experience at Channel 10, a conversation inspired me to look into savants and when I started to do this some savant skills became evident. I then looked into synaesthesia (it is the linking of an unusual experience with a common stimulus). This led to my own diagnosis of synaesthesia in 2010. Marden was the start of getting me interested in writing. In 2010 I made a film about synaesthesia. I went on to do presentations on synaesthesia to occupational therapists and speech pathologists at Autism SA.

After finishing my Advanced Diploma, I went on to study Bachelor of Behavioural Science majoring in (Psychology & Neuroscience) at Flinders University.

In 2015 I received Life Membership to Golden Key International Honour Society for academic performance in the top 15%. In 2018 I got Awarded Flinders University Chancellor's Letter of Commendation for outstanding academic performance in the Bachelor of Behavioural Science. I aim to have my university degree completed by the end of 2019.

In 2018 I was one of 14 graduates of the 2018 Autism CRC Future Leaders Program. I also started guest lecturing at Flinders University in the shared topic DSR54109/DSRS9063 Autism Spectrum Disorders

about autism sensory experiences. This led to me being the Guest speaker for the 2018 AGM of the Darwin Australian Association of Special Educators. I presented on synaesthesia at the Golden Key Asia-Pacific Leadership Summit in Adelaide in Feb 2019.

In 2019 I got an opportunity to review some research proposals of the investment rounds for Autism CRC as an autistic reviewer. I have also been helping out with reviewing and pilot testing surveys on autism research at Flinders University.

I still have an interest in photography, a DVD short film was filmed about my photography in 2008 and was released in 2013. I did an exhibition in 2012 in SALA at Bliss Organic Café with other artist's works and my name was printed in the Confident Cooking cookbook created by Bliss.

I have been involved as a past student every two years in the Marden Senior College Adelaide Fringe exhibition since 2011, in 2019 I exhibited Photos of Skyworks Perth.

Since leaving Marden I've also taken up hobbies in piano and sewing. I have completed Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course - Level 3 and in 2015 took up sewing which has given me skills to do many things, including making two shirts.

In the future I hope to do more autism advocacy and be involved with autism research I also aim to create a better understanding of autism sensory experiences, synaesthesia and plan to do presentations on a third topic.

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Sophia

During my years at Marden, I met some amazing educators that went above and beyond in supporting me with the time and resources to assist me to reach my goals. I truly believe that without the support I received at Marden, I would not be where I am today. The ethos of Marden Senior College is very clearly displayed and conveyed through the hardworking staff, as they create a supportive and nurturing environment for each student to reach their potential.

Achievements to date

I am extremely thankful for my experience at Marden Senior College, as it contributed to my successful application to study a Bachelor of Dental Surgery at James Cook University in Cairns. I made the move to Cairns at the beginning of 2017 and I am now half way through my second year of studies and I am preparing to start seeing my first patient in a matter of months.

Message to students:

A quote I kept on my wall during my years at Marden; "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

If you attended Marden Senior College,
have a success story and would like to
be featured as one of our Register of
Achievers, please contact us at
info@msc.sa.edu.au or 8366 2888.