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**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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# Amelia

## Coming to Marden

I enrolled at Marden because I didn't like the typical high school scene, so the layout of Marden really appealed to me. The freedom of studying when you liked and the smaller class sizes helped a lot with my studies as I was more determined to do my best.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

My time at Marden was very enjoyable as I met a lot of new people from all around Adelaide. The teachers were all so friendly and supportive of my studies and made school much more enjoyable.

In year 12, I was a part of the Student Government Association (SGA), which helped me develop excellent organisational skills as we had to organize a number of school activities such as a fundraising BBQ for Harmony Day and the end of year formal. Working with the SGA gave me more confidence as I had to make public speeches in front of the school at both the formal and the year 12 graduation. The SGA pushed me to do things I wouldn't normally do, as I am rather shy, which I really appreciate as it has given me more confidence.

Marden offered plenty of great subjects to study that not all high schools provide. In year 12, I had the chance to study subjects that have given me useful knowledge for my university degree. I did Nutrition, Health, Society and Culture, and Maths.



## Achievements to date

Since graduating from Marden in 2015 I have gone on to study a Bachelor of Nursing at Uni SA, as well as studying Italian to further increase my opportunities as a Registered Nurse. I would love to work abroad in Europe in the future as a Registered Nurse.

*“Just keep trying your best, even if you are not achieving the marks that everyone else is getting or that you wanted to get. There’s always room for improvement. Keep pushing yourself to do your best. You’ll thank yourself in the future.”*



## Ciyona

### Coming to Marden

As a child, I always wanted to become a medical doctor. I even remember playing doctor and patient with my teddy bear. However, I was devastated when I did not receive an offer to study medicine after completing year 12. Although family and friends suggested that I study my second preference, I decided to give medicine another shot. I enrolled at Marden Senior College to chase my dream and, it turns out, to better understand myself.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

Marden opened up numerous experiences to me, such as volunteering at Meals on Wheels and the Royal Adelaide Hospital as well as getting my first aid certificate.

The unique 2-hour lessons allowed me to manage time effectively, which became essential during the highly demanding year with my study, volunteer work and personal commitments. The independent learning environment suited my learning style and provided flexibility, allowing me to maximise my resources. It also exposed me to a similar type of environment to

*“Although I hated every minute of studying hard,” I said to myself, “suffer now and live the rest of your life as a great doctor”.*

university, which allowed me to smoothly transition from school to university. I was able to connect with people with similar goals and attitudes towards learning, which empowered me to set high standards for myself and required me to step out of my comfort zone.

My time at Marden was made memorable by the entire Marden community, from my mentor and teachers, who gave me endless support, to cafeteria staff, who served me food after a hectic day. Although it was extremely difficult to make sacrifices, like watching less Grey’s Anatomy episodes, the uphill battle led to a beautiful view at the end of the year.

### Achievements to date

Following my graduation at Marden Senior College, I received an offer to study a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at James Cook University in Queensland. I was also the 2016 Caltex Best All Rounder at Marden Senior College, which recognised my contributions, both in and out of school, and I received merits for Health and Research Project at Government House. I am currently a second-year medical student about to undertake a month of rural placement at Mossman Hospital in tropical Queensland. Looking back, I wouldn’t be where I am if I hadn’t made that appointment to enrol at Marden Senior College.

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# Eliza

## Coming to Marden

I didn't quite get the ATAR I needed to get into Physiotherapy at university, hence I wanted to do a few more courses to give me the result I needed to gain entry into my preferred course.

Marden offered Nutrition and Health, two subjects that were not available at my school when I did year 12.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

Marden was so flexible with subjects and times to study these. I only had to attend a couple of days a week, allowing me to work sufficient hours around my study commitments. I made some great friends who were on the same path as me, taking their study further to get where they wanted to be at university. Not to mention, the free bread days were an absolute highlight.

Staff were extremely encouraging and always went above and beyond to provide the support each and every student required.

Through studying Nutrition and Health, I was able to improve my ATAR and get into my dream course, Physiotherapy.



## Achievements to date

Since graduating from Marden, I was accepted into a Bachelor of Health Sciences / Master of Physiotherapy double degree program at Flinders University and am now in my second year of tertiary study. Once I graduate, I am hoping to gain employment as a physiotherapist in both a private practice and in a hospital, working in rehabilitation.

*“Everyone is on their own path to reach their goals,  
focus on yourself and what you are trying to achieve,  
and remember why you started!”*



## Gianluca

### Coming to Marden

I decided to complete my studies at Marden due to the self-directed approach the school takes. I had always wanted to have more freedom to study and Marden provided this.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

Starting out at Marden, just like any other school was quite daunting. However, I quickly found the community-oriented nature of the school quelled my nerves and made me feel accepted.

I really appreciated the individualised and the more self-directed approach to learning that the teaching staff encouraged.

*‘Your future begins with the foundation you build today, if that foundation is strong you will reap the fruits of your hard work’*

I felt as though the teachers had faith as I approached my learning in my own way, which really helped me succeed in Year 12.

I was able to study subjects that I was really interested in such as Psychology, Health, Nutrition and Society and Culture. These subjects provided me with the foundation I needed to understand where my possible future career paths may lead.

My favourite thing about Marden has to be all the amazing people that I met including teachers and students and how they all supported each other through a pretty special journey. My memories at Marden were definitely some that I will cherish and am forever grateful for being a student at Marden.

### Achievements to date

Since leaving Marden, I have continued my education at university studying a Bachelor of Psychology and Diploma of Languages concurrently. My interests in terms of a future career path are something in the addictions field of psychology or in social policy relating to psychological interventions.

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# Hoyeon

## Coming to Marden

I was uncertain of what pathway I wanted to take regarding my tertiary education. There was some room for improvement in my ATAR and I decided that spending a year improving my score would be good for me. So, I decided to enrol at Marden and take more time to figure out the right options for me.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

I didn't expect to have much of a social life compared to my previous school as I'd only be there for a year and wasn't sure if the people I'd meet would be in my age group. To my surprise, I met many new people who were fun to be around and spent a lot of time with outside school.

I also remember all the teachers being quite nice and treating me like an adult which suited my learning style better. It helped me graduate with a better ATAR and I finished the year with the subject award in Specialist Mathematics. It helped me take a bit more time to transition into a more independent learning style and engage with others, especially older people, which helped me feel more proactive and prepared for university later.



## Achievements to date

I currently study Medical Imaging at the University of South Australia. This is my second year and I aim to finish this course as soon as possible then join the workforce. Somewhere down the track, I'd like to switch careers into something like engineering or something which offers a different challenge.

*“One day your studies will be over and you’ll be glad for the effort being put in now.”*





# Imogen

## Coming to Marden

My main motivation in attending Marden was to improve my ATAR. Having completed my SACE the year previously, I unfortunately fell short of the ATAR which was required to gain entry into the career path which I desired. In researching what school options were available, I decided to attend Marden as I believed the adult learning environment, broad curriculum and flexible learning approach would suit my strengths as a learner.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

I cannot recommend Marden highly enough. Every facet of my learning experience at Marden was excellent, ranging from the high quality of the education received, the diversity and kindness of the student cohort and the ways in which teachers would go out of their way to support the individual.

The subjects I studied in my time at Marden included Nutrition, General Maths and Psychology. Having previously completed prerequisite subjects required to gain entry into my dream degree dentistry, I chose these subjects as

*“Persistence is the key. You only fail when you stop trying.”*

they broadened my scope of general knowledge. Within each of these subjects, every teacher truly went above and beyond their required duty to support me in achieving my dream, whether it be by clarification of topics to ensure I had a solid understanding of the concept to their excellent organisation and diligence. With the support of the teaching staff behind me, I was able to gain an ATAR of 99.4, allowing my hard work and persistence to be rewarded with my acceptance into dentistry.

However, there is far more to Marden Senior College than their impressive academic staff. The diverse student culture at Marden was so inclusive, allowing everyone to feel comfortable, at home and supported by each other. I was lucky enough to make some amazing friends at my time at Marden, friends that I know I will have for life.

The variety of events offered at Marden such as sausage sizzles, the formal, fundraisers and sporting opportunities offered a great way to interact with the Marden community. I would highly recommend Marden Senior College to any student as there really is a place for every face at this school. I can't value my experience there highly enough, and always look back on my time there with very fond memories.

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# Jade

## Coming to Marden

After deciding to take a gap year to try and get into medicine, I really wanted to engage in something that would keep my mind active and maintain a sense of involvement. I was not enrolled in university and I did not want to repeat year 12, so Marden Senior College was the perfect option for me.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

One of the greatest hallmarks of Marden is the kind and genuine people you will meet there. I remember walking through the gates, clouded by nerves and anxiety at the thought of starting afresh at a new school.

But this feeling was quickly diminished when I came across the first person I met at Marden; a friendly counsellor who helped me enrol in Health and General Mathematics. Not long later, I met my subject teachers, whom, to this day, I consider to be helpful and supportive figures in my journey. My teachers were always willing to go above and beyond to help me with anything.

It wasn't long before I got to know some of the other students, who I still keep in contact with today. A unique aspect of meeting people at Marden is the fact that everyone comes from different backgrounds, and are travelling on different roads to reach different goals. I am grateful for the friends I made and how they influenced my understanding of the world with their life stories.



Another important characteristic of this institution is the flexibility offered to students. Since attendance is only necessary for the classes you are enrolled in, it means you have time to maintain other priorities. Throughout the year, I was able to; commit to a part-time job, volunteer at a hospital and train for a half marathon.

Just like any great college, Marden held exciting events which created many memories. From grand, highly-anticipated events like Formal to relaxed, community-based events like 'plant a tree day' or 'morning tea' – I enjoyed them all. At the end of the year, there was a ceremony to celebrate students' achievements. I was very grateful to receive awards for highest performing student in both my subjects; it was a great way to reaffirm my positive experience at this senior school.

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***"I can testify that  
Marden's motto, 'Your  
pathway to success', is true  
because success is something  
YOU define."***





## Jeffery

### Coming to Marden

After working for many years in an office, I realised that I could be a better, more organised senior member of staff. This drove me to do something about it, redo my year 11 and 12, so I could get into university to further my career aspirations.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

Being a mature aged student was exciting and I was eager to learn, much more than when I originally went to school. I found it easy to ask questions, regardless of how silly or simple they may have seemed, which helped me learn and to understand a concept in a way that worked for me.

The teachers were more than happy to have a chat during breaks, to help answer any queries. They were very supportive of any ideas I had of what I was going to study at university. We would discuss life experiences and challenges already encountered in life leading up to, and including Marden Senior College. The fellow students were great and I got along with them all. I see some at university and still catch up with them outside of our studies, they are a great group of friends.

*Relax, it is the best environment to learn in and ask any questions you have, as the staff are very supportive.*

The subjects I did were Research Project, Maths Studies, Specialist Maths and Physics. They all had their challenges, but the teachers were always happy to answer any questions I had. Studying at Marden helped me realise that it doesn't matter how good a student you are, it is being committed to your goals that is the most important, and powerful, thing. It also helped reinforce that taking time out to help someone with an equation, or understanding a new concept is a good thing, regardless of my own workload at the time, it is appreciated and it makes me feel good about helping them. I have carried this with me to university, where I help out by being a peer tutor.

Marden was a really great opportunity and experience to have and I really appreciate all the help and support I received from the staff and fellow students. We were all there for the same reason, to learn.

### Achievements to date

I was accepted into a Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science at the University of South Australia. Since beginning university, I have quit my job so I can study as a full-time student to do the best I possibly can in this degree. I plan on finishing my degree and to begin work in my new field. Studying at Marden really helped me focus and get into a study rhythm.

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# Matt

## Coming to Marden

Upon completing year 12, I was unsure what I wanted to do in the future and decided to come to Marden to improve my ATAR and maximise my opportunities.

## Experience at Marden Senior College

When I began at Marden, I was apprehensive and unsure what to expect. However, I quickly felt comfortable thanks to the friendly staff and students.

I found the flexible structure of the Marden timetable very accommodating as it allowed me to continue to work whilst I was studying. The independent nature of the learning was also a nice change from my previous high school experience and it helped me develop skills that have been highly useful in adapting to life at university.

I studied Biology, Nutrition and the Research Project at Marden and was able to achieve great results. I believe this was largely due to the teachers, who were easy to get along with and extremely knowledgeable. My teachers were also very understanding of circumstances outside of school and made sure all of their students could perform to the best of their ability.



## Achievements to date

Thanks to my time at Marden, I was able to achieve an ATAR of 98.2, which allowed me to be accepted into a Bachelor of Psychology with Honours at Flinders University. Since being admitted to the course, I have completed my first semester with strong marks and have settled well into university. I am now aiming to complete my Bachelor and Honours degrees and go on to complete a Master of Psychology.

*Don't hesitate to go to Marden. It doesn't matter whether you're aiming for a 99.95 ATAR or just to complete your SACE, the teachers and students are great and make you feel really comfortable. Marden is a fun place to go to school and the teachers will help you achieve your goals!*



## Vraj

### Coming to Marden

Midway through Stage 1, I decided to move to Marden as my previous school did not offer Stage 2 Specialist Maths. Another factor was Marden's focus on being an adult learning environment, which would give me the flexibility to learn the way I wanted.

### Experience at Marden Senior College

My experience at Marden was very enjoyable due to the positive learning environment. It felt like all my teachers spent time and effort in supporting me to do well in assessments and tests.

*“Marden Senior College provided me with a great platform to excel, all I needed to do was put in a bit of hard work.”*

While at Marden, I studied Physics, English Literary Studies, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths and the Research Project. Particularly in my maths subjects, the teacher pushed us to think outside of the box, which upon reflection, has helped me immensely at university.

I enjoyed spending time in the Marden library during breaks, to relax and socialise. It was a great meeting place to share ideas and thoughts with like-minded people. Overall, the community at Marden is very friendly and diverse which, I believe, accounts for its success.

### Achievements to date

I received an ATAR of 92 (without bonus points) which enabled me to get into my preferred degree of Engineering. Currently, I am studying a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering through the University of New South Wales, at the Australian Defence Force Academy. In the future, my aspiration is to become an engineering officer in the Royal Australian Air Force.

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# Imogen

## Achievements to date

Following my graduation from Marden Senior College, I was lucky enough to gain entry into the Bachelor of Dental Health Science / Master of Dentistry at La Trobe University in Bendigo. To be accepted into this course was such an honour for me, as I could then develop the skills to fulfil my dream; to truly make a difference in the health of the Australian population, particularly in the rural Australian setting which suffers from many health inequities.

I am currently completing the first year of a five-year course and loving it! I am very passionate about my current study and already have developed many valuable skills. In the future, I desire to remain a life-long learner, whereby I remain up to date with the latest innovations and information. I hope to one day complete a specialisation in dentistry, involving a high level of patient interaction and skill level, such as orthodontics.

## Message to students

I hope that I can express to those reading this, that if you are passionate enough about something in life, failure is not an option. So, if you didn't get into your dream course the first time around or you missed out on that great job; persistence is the key. You only fail when you stop trying.

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# Jade

## Experience at Marden Senior College

When I reflect on my time at Marden, I would liken it to a bridge, a valuable bridge that prepares you for the future. It balanced the best aspects of school and university. You can build relationships with teachers and students who guide you towards your academic goals. There is also flexibility with time, which allows you to achieve personal goals. The combination of these two must be treasured, as it will equip you for any challenge.

Marden allowed me to study subjects that were not offered at my previous school, and ultimately increase my ATAR. It is a place where I met lifelong friends and created experiences that I will treasure forever.

## Achievements to date

Since leaving Marden, I was accepted into medicine at James Cook University. It has been a big life change to move from Adelaide to Townsville (Queensland) and study a degree that I am so passionate about. My future goal is to complete medical school, and hopefully work in communities where help is needed most.

## Message to students

I can testify that Marden's motto, 'Your pathway to success', is true because success is something YOU define. Whether it be completing your final year of schooling, taking a new subject, increasing your ATAR or finding new friends – you can be successful in whatever you choose.