

St Mary's Motto
"Omnia Pro Te Cor Jesu"
interpretation is:
"Heart of Jesus, all for
thee."

BELLES OF ST. MARY'S 1876-1983

Compiled by
Evelyn M. Sandie David Hughes

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St Mary's College acknowledges the assistance of present-day students and past pupils who have contributed articles and photographs for the production of this book.

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the assistance given by Sister M. Anastasia our greatest living memory.

Special thanks are extended to Sr M. Anastasia and Sr M. Aloysia for allowing us to use their wealth of memories and research findings; to members of the editorial committee, and to the Year 11 Graphics Class.

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A message from the Bishop

To all at St Mary's (students, staff and parents), I extend cordial greetings and pray for God's continued blessings and guidance on all your undertakings.

Over the past one hundred and eight years there have been many Sisters of Mercy, who have left an indelible mark on Catholic Education. I thank them and their dedicated lay staff for their generous and untiring efforts in this important field.

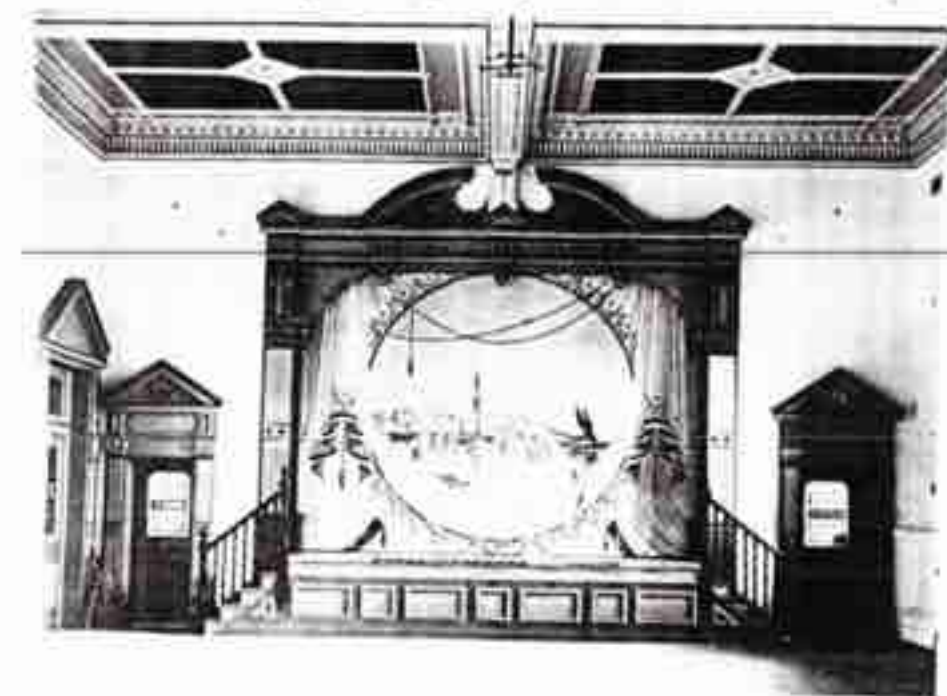
So one era closes — another opens and I feel sure "Catholic College" will have sure foundations when built on traditions such as those

Principals of St Mary's College.	
1876-1889	Mother M. Aloysius Martyn (Foundress)
1890-1904	M. M. Ligouri O'Hara
1904-1910	M. M. Gertrude Clanchy
1910-1917	M. M. Genevieve Nowlan
1918-1940	M. M. Xavier Steele
1941-1952	Sr M. Norberta Hogan
1953-1968	Sr M. Aloysia McLinden
1969-1970	Sr M. Veronica Forster
1971-1972	Sr M. Patricia McArdle
1973	Sr M. Carmel O'Dwyer
1974-1980	Sr Kathleen Cussen
1981-	Sr Mary Duffy

"MEMORIES . . ."



ST MARY'S COLLEGE HALL, BUILT IN 1896



A Brief History of St Mary's

The amalgamation of St Mary's College with Mariat Brothers College, to be effected in 1984, has made us very conscious of our history, and it is not without nostalgia that we have traced the development of our beloved St Mary's over more than a century. An extract from the Bendigo Advertiser of Tuesday, April 24, 1876 reads: "The Sisters of Mercy opened their select school yesterday. There was a large attendance of Young ladies anxious to place themselves under the care of the Sisters." The first name on the register was K. Abberton aged 14 years. The Sisters had been in Australia only 3 months and were living in a two-storey house in Barkly Place, once the home of Mr. Thunder.

The need to accommodate boarders was obvious, so the next year a boarding school was opened in Hustler's Terrace, opposite the convent, and by 1900, boarders were coming from fifty three different towns.

This first school, enrolling primary and secondary students, was known as "St Aloysius Select School", a large wooden building with two smaller rooms and a music room, erected facing Wright St.

This was the nucleus of St Mary's which was opened on July 27, 1897 by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Carr. The demand for enrolment had been such that in 1882 the pioneer Sisters began a building scheme, extending the original convent, by a three storey wing facing Barkly Place and Wright St. In 1884 a new chapel was erected, and by 1897 the building now known as the school hall, with tiled veranda and polished granite pillars and the rooms above, surmounted by the College

motto "Omnia pro Te, Cor Jesu," provided an imposing entrance for the new college. The occasion was marked by an official opening, and a Cantata, "Crystal", performed by the students, accompanied by an orchestra with Mr. E. A. Bradley as musical director, delighted a capacity audience that evening.

By 1904 the need for additional accommodation was pressing, so a new three storey wing was erected at the rear of the chapel. As the number of boarder applications continued to increase, more facilities were required so 1911-1916 dormitory balconies were erected the full length of the existing building. Other additions included the first science room, bathrooms, wash room dining rooms, music room and a recreation room known to generations of boarders as "The Rec". I wish its walls could talk!

In 1916 to assist the repayment of the considerable capital cost of these buildings, Bishop Reville authorised an appeal so a Queen Carnival was organized and the efforts of the six queens, all past pupils, realized £2040-11-1d a considerable sum in the currency of that time.

In 1925, sewerage was being installed in the City of Bendigo, so to cope with the cost of this vast plumbing venture, a second Queen Carnival raised the grand total of £2,385-4-9d. Remember these were the days of no Government assistance whatsoever. Queens were crowned in the Princess Theatre (now a petrol station occupies that site) and the audience applauded an excellent concert after which appreciation of the many Bendigoians who supported the appeal was expressed.

The next year, 1926, was an important landmark in the history of the Sisters of Mercy, Bendigo — the Golden Jubilee, with celebrations

Register of St Mary's College

Class	First Name	Residence of Parent
1st	John	St. Mary's
2nd	John	St. Mary's
3rd	John	St. Mary's
4th	John	St. Mary's
5th	John	St. Mary's
6th	John	St. Mary's
7th	John	St. Mary's
8th	John	St. Mary's
9th	John	St. Mary's
10th	John	St. Mary's
11th	John	St. Mary's
12th	John	St. Mary's

Class	First Name	Residence of Parent	School last attended
1st	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
2nd	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
3rd	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
4th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
5th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
6th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
7th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
8th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
9th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
10th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
11th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's
12th	John	St. Mary's	St. Mary's

EARLY EXTRACT FROM THE REGISTER OF ST MARY'S COLLEGE
(see previous page)

Congratulations and Best Wishes
CONTACT STATIONERY



QUEEN CARNIVAL 1925

Maria Carter (Queen of Sacred Heart)
(cathedral) Alton and St. Mary's
Kath. Laing, Junior Alton and St.
Paul. Maltby and Betty Smith

extending almost a week. The beautiful statue of Mary Immaculate in front of the original St Mary's and the Lourdes grotto in the garden were jubilee gifts from Past and Present pupils. Monsignor Rooney, V.G. of the Sandhurst Diocese at that time, conferred with Bishop McCarthy to arrange a fitting recognition of the Sisters fifty years of service to the people of Bendigo. Extensions to the existing chapel were required to accommodate the gifts of our beautiful marble altar, direct from Italy, and on Sunday, August 24, 1927 the altar and chapel were consecrated in a ceremony which commenced at 5.30 a.m. and concluded at 11 a.m.

The following year, August 15, 1928, the Sisters and pupils, past and present, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Mother Mary Joseph Woods who came with the foundation Sisters from Ireland, and was the first Sister of Mercy professed in the Sandhurst Diocese on August 17, 1878.

Continued expansion, required further classrooms, so, in 1928, a red brick building was erected facing Barkly St. West, and was used for junior classes — Prep. to Grade II — until the primary section of the college was phased out in 1973. Students of 1983 know this as the Drama Room.

In June 1946, Years 7 and 8 were accommodated in a stable! Mrs. Abbott lived in a large house next door and by arrangement with her the Sisters hired the brick building at the rear of her home which was a stable in the days of horses and carriages, and at the cost of £1000 converted it into a comfortable classroom used currently by Year 11.

With an awareness that an extensive building project was urgent, the Sisters purchased a property on the corner of Barkly Place and View St. in



St. Anastasia
"our oldest living memory"

1950. The existing buildings were demolished and plans commenced for the cream brick St Mary's, our main school building today. This was blessed and opened by Most Rev. D. W. Stewart D.D. on February 6, 1954. The marble statue of Our Lady on the quadrangle was a gift of the builder, Mr. J. Booker of Brisbane. Once again the financial responsibility was borne by the Sisters and again they were supported by the generosity of the people of Bendigo.

Just two years later, October 23, 1956, the deeds of the Abbott home were delivered to the convent. For years medals had been thrown over the fence, as the need for this property was obvious. It was acquired at an auction of the home and furniture following the death of Mrs. Abbot. In a short time, the old mansion was modified to provide music rooms and a junior lunch room which is now the pottery room. This building was named St Catherine's after the Foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's the demand for senior science rooms was pressing, so a successful submission was presented for Government funded laboratories. These were built above an existing classroom wing so, during 1966-67, work went on in spite of the whirr of cement mixers the leafening noise of hammers, and the dampening effect of frequent spring rains for which the temporary roof covering was often inadequate. On August 20, 1967, the project was complete and the official opening, and blessing of a Science block and library was performed by Bishop B. D. Stewart assisted by Bishop D. X. Thomas of Geraldton, Western Australia, a past pupil of the days when our junior school was co-ed. The Mayor of Bendigo, Cr. Tom Flood, and his wife Monica a past pupil, were

among the official guests, and the commemorative plaque was unveiled by Senator Cormack, representing the Federal Government.

Following the death of Sir George Lansell in 1959 his property Dendara was purchased and renamed "Coolock" after the property inherited by M. Catherine Mc Aulay in Ireland. For some years this building was used by the Sisters, but the phasing out of the boarding school in 1973 provided more accommodation in the convent building and the old home became the H.S.C. Centre.

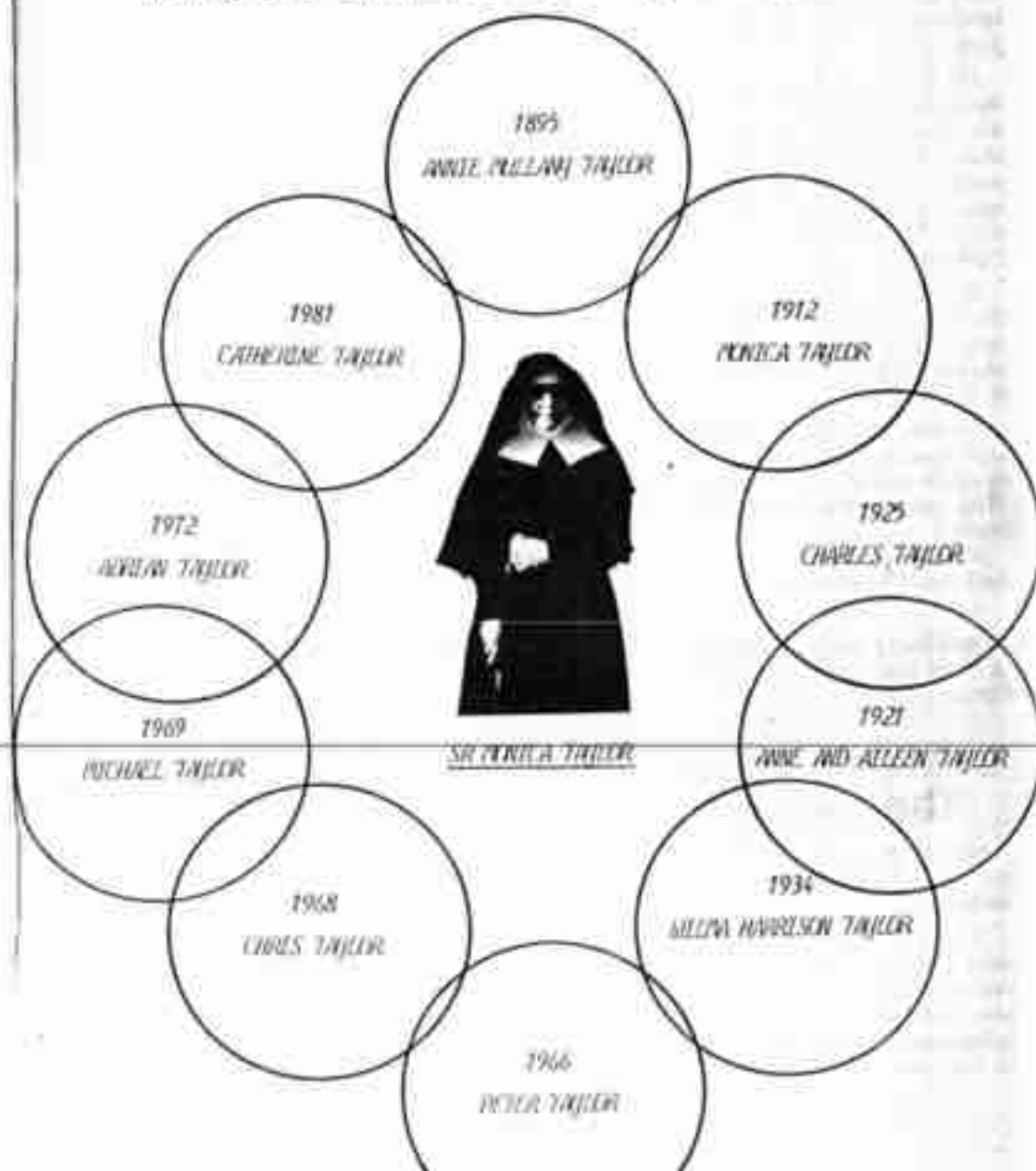
In 1973 the college discontinued enrolling boarders as bus transport was available for most students continuing secondary education. Strong bonds with our boarders from many country areas remain and a small reunion planned by a few "old girls" in 1980(?) developed into a day to remember for nearly three hundred past pupils, so happy to be together though briefly, after ten, twenty, thirty years.

Constantly aware that opportunities for expansion must not be lost, the Sisters purchased four houses in Barkly Place. Three of these became the site of the two storey building which provides classrooms for Years 7 and 8, and canteen facilities. This block and a new library were opened on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, 1976, both buildings being partly financed by Capital Grants from the Commonwealth Government.

This year 1976, was one of extensive celebrations for the centenary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Bendigo.

For almost a year an enthusiastic committee with Monsignor P. de Campo (now Bishop de Campo of Port Pirie) as Chairman worked to organize a week-end of celebrations which

A CENTURY OF ASSOCIATION WITH ST MARY'S COLLEGE - the TAYLOR FAMILY



opened on Saturday, March 27 with 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Sacred Heart Cathedral, followed by "Back to St Mary's" in the college grounds, and a family celebration in the Town Hall at 8 p.m.

On Sunday a beautiful Autumn day, the Bendigo Race Course was a splendid setting for a moving, memorable Mass. Hundreds of present and past pupils travelled from near and far to renew friendships and, above all, to thank God for a hundred years of Catholic education.

On July 12 of the same year at the Grand Centenary Ball twenty-four debutantes and their partners were presented to our Bishop, Most Rev. D. B. Stewart.

So our magazine of 1983 is specially significant. Do you remember Tennyson's poem "The Death of Arthur"? "The old order changeth, yielding place

to new
And God fulfils Himself in many
ways."

And Dag Hammarskjöld's
"For all that has been thanks,
For all that is to be. Yes."

**St Mary's College in
The early 1900's**

Mrs. Wodetzki one of our oldest past pupils from the turn of the century writes:

"Our classroom was one long room with a stage at the end for the infants. We used to go to Fortuna grounds to play tennis. When we were leaving school (each day) a Sister always came to the gate to see us off and put our

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Success of the Catholic College Benilago
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gloves on, I enjoyed my days at the convent.

Mrs. Wodetzki (Molly O'Dwyer)

The 20's

My memories are of a much smaller school than the St Mary's of today. Because of the smallness of the group, it was possible for every student to be aware of what was going on. Hence interpersonal relationships were very close.

Individual classes were small and each class up to Grade 8 had its own particular teacher, so that the bond between teacher and class was strong. Because of this, students experienced greater security, and studious habits were fostered. All classes were in



STEPHENS IN THE 1980'S

15. to 18: *Agavea lobellii*, C. A. Dominant,
Hill Country (St. Mary River R.S.M.,
Barro Colorado St. Mary River R.S.M. -
Local of California, 91)



ST. MARK'S COLLEGE 1926

In the Transients (1st & 2d Rts) : Nathan Fauslon, ; Jossie Fauslon, ;
Fruit Box : Sheila O'Brien, Margaret Starn, Betty Swarth, ... ; Robert Carlsbach, Jean Swarth, Joan Nelson,
 Mary Ann, Tony Mulvaney, Tony Fauslon, Violet Mitchell, ... ; Tania, Ned Reed, Jessie Butler, Vera Goldice,
 Emily Phares, Ruth McGuiness, ... ; Norma Taylor, Laura McLeod, Hilary Lake, Dorine Turner, Dorcas Fauslon,
 Tony Lynn, Tony Vance, Teas Griggs, Ray Harder, Ina Rose
Second Boat : Margaret Mann, Ron Sullivan, Roy Greenman, Tess Nelson, Agnes Graham, Cass Taylor, Eva Barry, Lily
 Gullfryde, Edna Thight, Paul Harder, Mary English, Ruth Peterson, Ida Winkelsch, Nora Kennedy, Nina Smith, ... ;
 Joan Nelson, Tony Kereachy, Alice O'Sullivan, Joyce Dickson, Sheila Pearson, Pat Corbin, Nell Peterson, Sheila
 Taylor, Ina Bailey, Vera Harman
Third Boat : Joan Flynn, Jess Nelson, Eileen Davison, Tony Deschler, Margaret Sporn, Gene Fauslon, Norla
 Harrington, Anna Karanis, Nell Rogers, Eileen Gully, Connie Baker, Louise Ploetz, ... ; Eileen Hussey, Albie Gross
 Ann Andrew, Tony Harmsen, Jan Peterson, Dorcas English, Ray Graham, Kathy Day, Tony Fraser, Vera Jones, Jessie
 Conway, ... ; Gladys Higgins, Frances Baker, Nan Longstaffe, Vera Ryndel, Liz Simpson, Eileen Fauslon, Margaret
 Arvey
Fourth Boat ... ; Mary Cahill, Tony Gullfryde, Tony Coulter, Lela Hauke, Kathleen Conway, ... ; Irene Hestrich,
 Anne Fraser, ... ; Isabel Harrington, Gwen Pettit, ... ; Norman Gross, Lorna Hollister, ... ; Eileen Bellamy,
 June Harman, Ron Harman, ... ; Frances Beck.

charge of Sisters and close association with the Sisters imbued a distinct spirituality in the College.

The value of the arts, particularly music was strongly developed, so that students carried into their adult life, a deep and wide culture. Reunions reflected the loyalty that was built up in the small and close community. These reunions evoked many happy memories when joys and sorrows were recalled.

Sr. M. Caterina
20's

In 1927 having come from the small school of Holy Rosary, White Hills, St Mary's College, was a big school to me. Besides day pupils, there were about 60 girl boarders, who came from near, and distant country schools, some smaller than the school from which I had come. Our uniform was a navy tunic, white blouse, navy tie with blue and gold stripes. Most of the girls got to know each other, and a number of lasting friendships were formed. Our first period on Monday mornings was devoted to Physical Culture, under the direction of Mr. Lindsay, and later Mr. Meredith.

We used to have our annual concert in the A.N.A. Hall, and at one period staged the play Pearl the Fisher Maiden in the then Princess Theatre and this was a huge success.

There were 6 girls from our class, who entered the Mercy order. We hope that we are all, in our different spheres of life, a credit to St Mary's. I must mention, that one of my class mates, Miss Margaret (Peg) Brennan, was awarded the OBE in 1974 for her contribution to Community Service.

Bess Donohoe (nee McEwan)

The early 1930's . . .

In my memory lane there are many evergreens of the 1930's. Down that lane my memories are vibrant with all the enthusiasms of youth.

Spiritually I was formed by daily Mass and the Rosary, visits to the Chapel, weekly Confession and high points of devotion like the Children of Mary and the fervour with which we celebrated the Months of Mary and the Sacred Heart. The two latter were enhanced for the "Boarders" by the daily Benediction and the presence of the Altar Boys in a feminine preserve.



Sr. Parnellius Leary

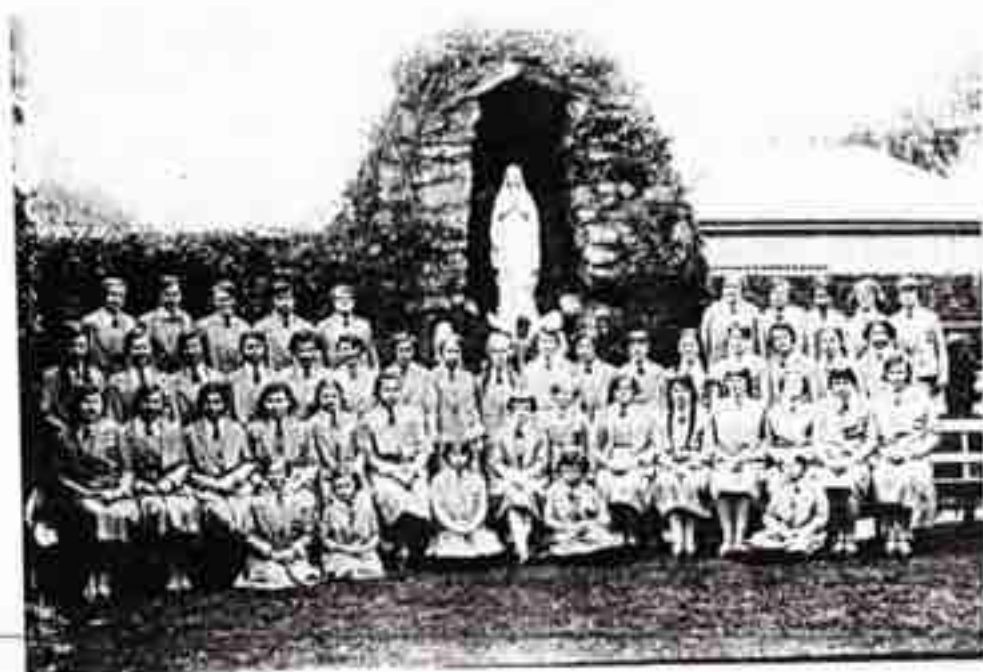
The depth of our spiritual training was witnessed in the number of vocations to the priesthood and religious life at that time.

Our Altar Boys were the late Bishop Thomas Cahill and Fr. Arthur Owens and the present Monsignor Owens of Kennington.

At least 20 girls became religious, mostly Sisters of Mercy.

Memories of boarding school crowd in upon me, the friends I lived with and the friends I made. Over the past 50 years I have lived with them in religious life and met many of them at reunions/functions and in my work in Convents from Mildura to the sea. We were very close-knit in our school community because we were country girls

who came from close-knit families at home. Our hearts always yearned for holidays at home, for week-ends were rare and visits from home a joy. Personally I enjoyed a weekly visit from my brother, now Father J. Holland S.J., a student at Marist Brothers' College, Bendigo, who shared with me the goodies received from home by mail



ST. MARY'S BOARDERS 1932

Front Row: L. to R. Joan Colman, Brian Gavin, Lewis Heasdale, Joan Carter, Betty Sprad.

Second Row: Tess McLinden, Amy Harrington, Anna Taylor, Nellie Meek, Anna White, Joan White, Nancy McCarthy, Lilian Colman, Heather Bell, Jane Hamilton, Margie Gee, Amy Ashburn, Irene Fitzpatrick.

Third Row: Betty Seaton, Ross Hamilton, Amy Holland, Alice McLinden, Lilian Adams, Amy Colman, Amy Duggan, Marie Soden, Ruth McCullin, Rita Williamson, Gladys Whinfield, Ellen Witherspoon, Joan Ryan, Dolores Gendreau, Anna Pearson, Amy Hie, Nellie Burke.

Fourth Row: Val Poole, Margaret Ann, Cecily Taylor, Dawn English, Lisa Barry, Cassie Whelan,, Freda Hall, Frances Smith,

coach.

Memories of school itself are rather memories of personalities than of subjects and events — Sisters M. Agnes and M. Borgia who looked after the Boarders; Sister M. Joachim who cooked for us; and the College Staff; particularly Mothers M. Gertrude and Xavier and Sisters M. Benedict, Norberta, Louise, Anastasia and Ita. These Sisters, many of whom have gone to God, cared for us, taught us and prepared us by their example and guidance for the future that would be ours. Their task was lightened by the faith and stability of our homes.

Events that stand out in the early 30's are memories of the 1931 Catherine McAuley Centenary Pageant in which we performed the 'Opening of the Rose', the Operetta, 'Pearl, the Fishermayden', College Balls and Boarders' Picnics.

With many Catholic Women throughout Victoria, I share the nostalgia of 50 years, and I thank God for what St. Mary's College has been in the past and in the present and I feel sure that its influence will live in the memories of all who have claimed it as their Alma Mater.

Sister M. Pancratius (Mary Holland)

1936-37

Our square-topped, dark blue old Dodge turned sedately out of View Street into Barkly Place and Viv and I were only too aware we had arrived! Minutes on the front steps — precious, soon we'd be on our own in this new world where softly spoken sisters

moved quietly about, and doors opened and shut with a minimum of sound.

Unpacking in the green dormitory — 3 blue blouses, 4 pairs grey stockings, 1 school jumper, 3 pairs fleecy lined



A GROUP OF PATRICULATION STUDENTS
(GIRL GUIDES) 1937

Front Row (L. to R.) Eileen Hynes,
Dorothy (Pittman) (now Rice),
Back Row Louise Briggs (now Watson),
Florence Kelly (now Cahill), Mary
McIntosh (now Jeffery), Eileen Hunt
(now Chapman)

unmentionables, all plainly marked. Already in slippers not to mark the immaculately polished floors, not not — not to sit on the snow white college badged quilts or lean on the starched surrounds which swathed the lovely old four-poster beds, with curtain rail to turn them into private cubicles for undressing.

So we began in this great old College which our sister Noreen had attended before us. In her time Intermediate was the highest level and

boarders attended the High School for the desired extra two years. I seem to remember that Francis Xavier Thomas and brothers Eugene and Hugo Sandner attended then too. Noreen had a fierce loyalty to both schools and the slightest suggestion of "prissy Convent girls" or "rough High School boys" would bring the wrath of her not inconsiderable tongue.

The odd feeling I had of being strange but belonging was because my mother was a boarder here and also her sister, Elizabeth — Sister Mary Bruno to be a nun for about 50 years. My mother, Emily Ellen Bridget Francis was once threatened with expulsion for "dreadful behaviour unbecoming to a young lady". It seemed that at sorting of laundry high jinks were in progress and a ball of paired stockings sailed out of the window into 'Abbot's' who were about to enjoy, with guests, outdoor afternoon tea. The missile landed atop a delicious whipped cream covered cake and of course the marking revealed E. E. Francis. Apparently "only the love and respect which Rev. Mother and the Sisters bore her dear mother and father" saved Mum from the dread expulsion. Those days the Sisters travelled by waggon once or twice a year to lunch on the Campaspe river at William and Honora Francis' place, Lyrallan Farm — home later of Michael and Kit Francis, parents of Sister Avelino and Sister Veronica.

Our early strangeness was lost in friendships, in busy days — mastering quick dressing, getting those quilts just right — badges lined up — elder-downs folded attractively, floors gleaming, huge old chocolate boxes arranged decoratively on chests of drawers. Down to washroom where 60

odd of us, if not more, lined up to wash in cold, cold water, to hurry down stairs, don lace-up shoes, into Chapel for 6.15 Mass. To serve Mass — no, not on Altar but from left front seat of boarder's chapel. To be guilty of impatience with Monsignor Cahill's beautifully enunciated Latin simply because one hoped for extra time to do unfinished homework. To file across to the Refectory, tugging our white veils and blue Children of Mercy cloaks off as we went, stowing missals in pockets, and in winter months rub our frozen hands and look not too kindly on glass jugs of cold water and lines of gleaming glasses, snow-linen, and silver cutlery with our own initials. Hurried grace, "Lift those chairs quietly, girls," and then, praise Heaven and dear old Sister Joachim, the arrival of hot porridge, warm milk, conversation, laughter and warmth.

"You're on dishes — you're on tables" if not up to Sister Mary Agnes and talks about speech. "The brown cow was sold in a nearby town. Repeat it, my dear. Again my dear! Why will you not pronounce your ow's as I tell you?" 'Cos, said the reluctant one "Daddy and the boys would laugh at me."

Down to the big hall divided by blackboards into 2 classrooms, sub-intermediate and intermediate. But first assembly in the quadrangle with dear old Mother Xavier who would address us and inspect us with the precision of the daily routine officers in the Services, and her worst criticism was likely to be that you had (in your effort to establish that you had a nice waist) made yourself look "like a bag of flour tied in the middle." And so "tum tum te tum, tum tum te tum" we marched up the steps into our par-

Pat Walker for the Future
Success of the Catholic College Bendigo
B.P. FIVE LIONS SERVICE STATION
Cor. View and Barnard Streets

Best Wishes for the Future
Success of the Catholic College Bendigo
MILNE'S SALES

ticular end — Leavings to left — Honours to right of stage.

Memories of school days — oh yes, Sister Mary Norberta, a great teacher built confidence in her and yourself, of Sister Mary Teresa, aunt of my friend Dorothy Walsh — taught me Drawing, smiled happily at my painting, sighed at my plan and elevations and reached for her beads, and Sister Mary Anastasia who made English a marvellous subject, the highlight of the day. The visit of the young priests, Fathers Thomas and Arthur and Frank Owens. All looked forward to it. We had been told never to have ink in our desks. Guess who had a whole new bottle! We were on alert to stand and sing as soon as the three priests approached. I stood — aghast! tunic covered in ink. Sister Norberta right in front of me hesitated not. She whipped my tunic over my head, spread her sleeved arms wide, shepherded me out the side door in best football style — slid her extra sleeves down — pulled one over me as a tubular skirt — said "Come in behind me" — and there I was back in my seat in time for the looked forward to visit.

Sister Mary Borgia "I'm Mother hen" she told me "Come to Mother hen." A splendid nun who made it home for us all, who was up early and late, and in the cold when winter coughs disturbed the night, when rough winds rattled the big blinds on the balcony, and one roisterous night when one broke loose, there she was battling to restrain it. When we went hatted, tuckered, gloved and blazered in bree's walking on weekends around the hills of Bendigo, she would accompany us and en route say a brief hello to her parents and move on with us and later Agnes.

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Success of the Catholic College Bendigo*
JOHN WATTS WASTE
72 Eaglehawk Road

Lights out that first night "Good-night and up at first bell, girls." Heads under blankets, quiet sobs here and there. Then floated up murmurs and chatter, gay voices, laughter. "Who's that," said a startled Vivienne, forgetting silence. "That's the Sisters at recreation," said Sister Borgia. "Do nuns laugh?" said Viv, setting us all laughing in the dormitory and so we fell asleep.

Choir practice with Sister Mary Agnes. "Sing this note for me dear. You're Peg's cousin — Kathleen's cousin really. Oh dear! Well just mouth it won't you dear". The moving sound of beautiful young voices singing the Mass, but particularly Benediction — I was almost pleased to be a non-singer for the delight of hearing the others — girls like Nonie Griffin, Marie Tehan, Kath Francis and Peg Harrington, all blending exquisitely supported by the superb soprano of Irish Sister Agnes herself. Benediction sung by the boarders in St Mary's Chapel, the O Salutaris hostia, the Tantum ergo and above all Adoremus in aeternum remains a fresh and hauntingly beautiful memory.

First-night recreation after early study, before late study. Mary Griffin I think at the piano. Supposed to relax — dance — in winter to get warm — "Can't dance? Course you can," Sister Mechilde laughing. "Come on, with me. Used to dance with your father I did!" and away we went in a circular waltz.

The time of the polio epidemic when lessons were given separately to boarder and day pupil's to minimize the risks of infection, was a difficult time for all especially the teaching

staff who apart from singing teacher Miss Linehan and Ballroom Dancing teachers Miss Hall and Mr. Steweski were all Mercy nuns.

School year ended — external examinations held at School of Mines were over and numbers of successful examinees would appear in newspapers. The boarders departed in Oldsmobiles, Minervas, Ford V8's, Buicks, Pontiacs, some took horse-drawn cabs to the station. We scattered in all directions, to Swan Hill, to Melbourne, to Rushworth, to Heathcote and of course Viv and I leapt into the Dodge to get home to Lucerne Grove. We were leaving a place of warmth and happiness and interest to return to another dear to us. Our world had grown and for the better.

Sr. Audrey Cleeve
(nee Harrington)

The '40s

Mr. Meredith wearing a singlet over his bathers when he took us swimming at the Ladies Baths.

Asking tiny Sr. Tarcisus to play Chopin's Polonaise just to see her sliding up and down the piano stool to reach the keys.

The apron we wore over our uniforms for sport and the long white dresses we wore for choir and playing tennis.

Having a bet on the Melbourne Cup with Sr. Anastasia when I was in Intermediate.

Being reported for eating in the street.

Playing a piano duet "Under The Double Eagle" with my friend, for the girls to march into assembly.

The caring sisters who gave me extra tuition during the holidays.

Being checked out by the sisters before I went for an interview to become a teacher — Hat, gloves, shoes etc.

Val Comerford (D'Arcy)

"The Future Before Us — The Forties"

It could be that the school song from which these words are taken will be phased out as St Mary's College merges into Catholic College Bendigo. Nevertheless, may the theme song for the new school have the spirit of optimism and hope which has characterized a fine school over a long history.

Echoing back through the years the song evokes memories of when my contemporaries and I were making part of that history — not in a spectacular way but as a part of the ordinary student-body of the time.

The Annual Concert comes to mind. Choral items, "plastic" exercises, folk dances, plays and even more ambitious productions such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Hiawatha" (with girls in hessian sacks, feathered head-dresses and brown make-up — the only type permitted) were a prelude to the "grand finale". For this last item of the evening every student was crammed on the stage of the Capitol Theatre to smile, to wave dutifully at

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Success of the Catholic College Bendigo*
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Queen Street, Bendigo