



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

Introducing:

**Marinella Centorrino (nee Costanzo)
Class of 1999**

Dear Marinella

It was wonderful to hear from you and to learn of your journey since leaving College 20yrs ago! How special too, that you have maintained friendships that were formed during your College days!

Thank you for sharing!

What are some of your special memories of College days?

I have many fond memories of Mercy. Some were significant, others less, nevertheless they still hold a place in my mind twenty years later.

One of those memories was gathering around the wall heater in huddled groups in the classroom to talk about the highlights of our weekends or to catch up on what happened on our favourite tv series the night before. We didn't have social media in those days so we had to wait till the next day to talk about what happened!

My memories of our much-anticipated school socials and Year 10 Balls with our brother schools comes to mind too. Many girls formed friendships and some even ended up marrying those boys we met as young teenagers!

I was very lucky to be one of the girls who took part in the very first Italian Study Tour of tour Italy back in 1997 with Mrs Grace Masini. This trip began my love for all things Italian! I then went on to study Italian at University making it my major in teaching methodology. My two little girls 7 and 3 are also fluent in the language and together as a family we have been to Italy three times and look forward to our next holiday exploring Sicily later this year. I have put this love of Italy and the language down to Grace Masini. Her passion of the language really inspired me.





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Lastly our Year 12 retreat was a beautiful highlight in our last year of secondary school. The relationships we formed with our teachers and peers in those two days kept us steadfast for the last year at Mercy.



*My family:
Alessia 3yrs old, me, my
husband Adam Centorrino
and Sofia 7yrs old*

Did you set out with a career plan?

I always wanted to become a teacher. After completing my VCE I was accepted into the Bachelor of Arts/Teaching course at ACU. During my time at university I took a semester off and travelled to Italy together with my cousin Connie Costanzo (a Mercy Student). She did work experience in Italy, HR in Milan and I worked in a private English school teaching English to Italians. On my return home I completed my course and got a teaching position at St. Paul's in Coburg. I taught Prep and Grade one for seven years until I left on maternity leave.

I now dabble in cake and cookie making as a stay at home mum.

Reflect on the significance of your friendship group

Some of the friends made at Mercy have become lifelong friends. We have been through many milestones from getting married to having children. We are a group of 8 Mercy girls and among us we have had 18 children. Our children are all similar age groups and they too enjoy spending time together! Amongst my closest Mercy girlfriends, we have a variety of career paths from Health to Business!



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Top left:

*Leah Battistone, Gabriella D'Alessandro, Maria Zervoulas,
Connie Costanzo, Josie Catania, Bianca Santalucia*

Bottom left:

Sera De Pace, Natasha Brancaleone, Marinella Costanzo

What advice would you give to current students?

Secondary school should be a wonderful part of your life journey for apart from the knowledge you gain, you also take with you a treasure of lifelong friendships!

As women growing up in this era, we are extremely privileged to attend school. Education is the door to our freedom, giving us opportunities that many young women around the world only dream of. We mustn't take this opportunity for granted. Use it for good! Remember that hard work, determination and doing something you love is important! Nothing comes easy in life but teamed with the above, an abundance of kindness, faith and knowledge, you can do anything!