



Rania Wehbi- class of 1993

Rania was interviewed by her daughter, Theresa Wehbi, who is College Co-Captain in 2021.

What are some special memories that you have from your Mercy College days?

I have many great memories of my time at Mercy College. One of my fondest memories was the year 10 ball with our sister school, St Josephs. Before our practice lessons each week, all the girls would run to the bathroom to do their hair and makeup so they could look pretty when they saw the St Joseph boys. I remember what a wonderful evening we had at the ball all dressed up in formal wear and arriving in limousines.

I also remember using the encyclopedia for research projects instead of our friend Google, which didn't exist back in my school days. I didn't have a laptop and our computer lessons were typing lessons using the typewriter, which I used to love.

I had great experiences and supportive teachers at Mercy College, which lead me to my decision to send my daughter to the same high school. My daughter attending Mercy College has brought back many fond memories especially when I know that some teachers who taught me have also taught my daughter, such as Ms Mosca and Ms Bond who have just retired.



Did you set out with a career plan?

My goal was to complete VCE and become a hairdresser, so I completed work experience in a hairdressing salon and was offered a casual job which I took up until I got a part-time job at Coles Coburg. I completed VCE in 1993. In 1994, I applied for a Job in the Premier's Department as administration officer and was successful. In 1996 I commenced in Protocol and Special Events at the Premier's Department, I also got married in the same year. I was the youngest person in the Department in 1994 and 1995, so I had the privilege of cutting a cake with Jeff Kennett who was premier and the time.

In 2003, I went on maternity leave, returning to the workforce 2 days a week in 2009 after having two children, Theresa who is now the College Co-Captain and Joseph who is in year 8 at Antonine College.

I currently work full time as project support officer at the Department of Education and Training.

What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?

The most significant milestones for me have been getting married and having my two children. Also, entering the public service in 1994 where I'm still working after 27 years.



Where has your career path taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?

Throughout my career in the public service, I have met a few well-known individuals in Australia. I have met 2 former Victorian Premiers, Jeff Kennet and Steve Bracks and The Queen (*I was involved in planning her visit to Melbourne in 2000 when I was working in Protocol and Special Events*).

Have you maintained any school friendships?

For a while I lost contact with most of my school friends, however I am reconnecting with a lot of them through social media and the schools that my children attend, Mercy and Antonine. It is a small world, because after more than 20 years, often our children go to same schools and at times are in the same classes, just like us mothers were in the past.

What's next for you?

I would like to continue working in the Public Service for a few more years, and travel. I also want to support my children in their future endeavours.

What advice would you give to current students?

High School is wonderful milestone in your life journey, enjoy this time with your friends because those good days will not come back.

Education will open many doors for you, no matter how far you go, whether you finish VCE and enter the workforce (like me) or continue your journey through University. Hard work and doing what you love is the key to success.

Remember, nothing comes easy in life and you have a long journey ahead of you in this world. If one door closes another will open, there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Don't give up at the first closed door, push it open and continue your journey. Hard work and persistence pay off.

Good luck to you all and I hope you fulfill all that you wish for.