

Old Scholars

'Where are you now'



Lisa McCormick
(Lisa O'Rourke)

Graduation Year

1982

Occupation/Profession

Principal at McAuley Community School

Briefly describe your career path since graduating:

I went straight to Teacher's College in Warrnambool after finishing Year 12. Following Graduation, I won a permanent teaching position at Our Lady of the Pines, Nangwarry then moved to Paul's Primary School. After my initial years in teaching, I switched careers and worked in marketing and customer service at Barry Maney Ford.

Six years and three children later, I felt a strong calling to return to teaching. I was employed at St Paul's in the year before it's amalgamation, then taught at Tenison Woods College until December 2012. During that time, I held a number of positions including Teaching and Learning (R-5), Head of Junior School and APRIM (R-12). I relocated to Adelaide and have held various leadership positions. I am currently Acting Principal at McAuley Community School, Hove.

What are you most proud of?

My Family - all my children also went to Tenison Woods College and that has helped to shape them into the people they are now. Each has become independent and successful in their own right.

What stays with me however, is the indelible and yet often unknown mark you can leave on any child or family that you teach or journey with along the way. That, is the privilege of working in education.

How has your education influenced your career choices?

I had wonderful teachers throughout my own schooling at St Paul's and at Tenison College. My Catholic upbringing gave me a deep sense of commitment to faith and education.

Any notable achievements or milestones in your professional life?

- Opening the Tenison Woods College Practice Firm for Year 11 Business Service Students.
- Organising and leading the first Tenison Woods College trip to Timor Leste.
- Facilitating and leading the Adelaide Youth to World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.
- Local SEETA award for innovative teaching practice
- My many varied leadership positions

Most importantly the children and their families who have all enriched my life.

Advice or lessons learned you would like to share with current students?

We always have words of wisdom... But most wisdom has to be learned through life experiences. So I guess it is to go through the doors that open to you. Take a risk and have a go!