

# Mary Andrews College

*Equipping Women to Serve Christ*

## MAC in Touch – June 2009

### Ordinary Women Achieve Something Extraordinary!



2009 DipTh Graduates: Lynn Davy, Margaret Angelinetta, Margaret Padroth, Marion Woodhouse, Annette Francis

Monday evening 23 March was just another graduation event... or was it? Who was graduating? Five women from Mary Andrews College, each with their Diploma of Theology...

What is extraordinary about these women is that they have chosen to devote a few years to study the Bible – amidst the busyness of life with families, children, aging parents, church ministries and outside church ministries and work.



Rev. Dr Mark Harding, Dean of the ACT, presenting Annette with her Diploma of Theology

Each of them spoke at their graduation of the wonderful blessings and benefits they had gained from their studies. *“Being part of MAC has been one of the most enriching and fulfilling experiences of my life. It has shown me the ‘big picture stuff’ of what it means to be a Christian and how absolutely incredible God is!”* (Margaret A.)

This year Mary Andrews College’s five graduates are all married women in the ‘middle years’ of life - not normally a time for women to take on the rigours of theological study. *“I prayed eight years ago that God would teach me all that he wanted me to learn. That he would sort out all the extras: husband, four kids, work, house and ministry. He did... I discovered MAC!”* (Annette)

Dr Karin Sowada, CEO of the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney Limited (the parent body of MAC), gave the occasional address. Karin gave us a helpful snapshot of what Sydney’s current and future women will look like and cast a vision and challenge for Mary Andrews College. *“In a highly competitive education marketplace, we must work harder and smarter to be the theological college of choice for women who don’t want degree based education but who want to develop their ministry skills in a flexible learning environment.”*

(For the full text of Dr Sowada’s graduation address see <http://www.mac.edu.au/graduation2009.htm>)

Our hope is that people will catch the vision of more women being equipped to serve Christ. This course is an excellent tool to do that.

#### Other articles in this MAC in Touch include

- \* New subjects offered in semester 2
- \* Opportunities in Myanmar
- \* How is MAC going?

## Have you enrolled in semester 2 2009?

All Semester 2 subjects are fortnightly with eight classes each.

<b>Campbelltown</b> Understanding People	<b>Tuesdays</b> (starting 11 August)
<b>Caringbah</b> Genesis and Deuteronomy Christian Maturity	<b>Fridays</b> (starting 31 July) (starting 7 August)
<b>Chatswood</b> Gospel of John Spiritual Formation	<b>Fridays</b> (starting 31 July) (starting 7 August)
<b>Dapto</b> World Religions	<b>Tuesdays</b> (starting 4 August)
<b>Emu Plains</b> Genesis and Deuteronomy Leadership	<b>Mondays</b> (starting 27 July) (starting 3 August)
<b>Hoxton Park</b> Pastoral Care	<b>Fridays</b> (starting 31 July)
<b>Stanmore</b> Communicating Effectively Revelation	<b>Mondays</b> (starting 27 July) (starting 3 August) <b>Wednesdays</b> (starting 29 July)
1 Corinthians Sharing Your Faith	(starting 5 August) <b>Thursdays</b> (starting 30 July)
Amos and Jeremiah Creative Ministries	(starting 6 August)

See the 'Bible Courses for Women 2009' brochure or [www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au) for more details.

## New Subjects Offered in semester 2

There will be fifteen subjects starting at Mary Andrews College in late July to early August. See below for descriptions of two subjects which are new in 2009.

### Spiritual Formation

'Spirituality' is the buzz-word of personal transformation in our culture. Examine what the Bible says about Christian spirituality, and tackle its common forms in our society, such as meditation, solitude, fasting, journaling and asceticism. How do corporate activities like public worship, accountability, encouragement and community life enable us to grow in our Christian character?



Students at morning tea

### Creative Ministries

Explore drama, music and visual arts as a means of Christian communication. Starting with the Bible, we will trace the use of these mediums and continue with church history, the contemporary church and ministry. The place of creativity in reflecting the character of God will be examined, along with strategies to make our own ministry in this area more effective.

## Living Life

Surprised by faith in a broken world

With speaker Rebecca Manley Pippert  
author of *Out of the Saltshaker*

Mary Andrews College Conference - a re-energise way weekend  
3 - 5 July 2009



Register online at [www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au) or phone MAC on (02) 9569-2418

**2009**  
**CONFERENCE**



## Opportunities in Myanmar



On 19 May Jackie, Chris and Lyn boarded a plane bound for Myanmar. We had been invited over for the 95th Anniversary of the Mother's Union in Myanmar. 500 women from all over the country gathered for this special celebration. Some had travelled for a week to get there by boat, train, bus or on foot. We shared in Bible study with these women each morning.



Myanmar is a beautiful country with wonderful people, but life is very difficult. Only 5% of the population is Christian and being a Christian brings many challenges for them.



We were also able to take up the opportunity to share God's word in a number of other locations. Overall we had the opportunity to share with about 800 women. There is a real hunger for God's word and for training in practical skills. With the help of translators, we taught from the books of Colossians and Ruth. We also covered issues such

as understanding the grieving process, training in 'Two Ways To Live', and a number of talks on various aspects of the Christian life. The Anglican Deaconess Institution funded the Burmese version of the 'Two Ways to Live' booklet, so that the women have material to share when they get opportunities. Below is a picture of them holding this booklet.



Another very special experience occurred on the one year anniversary of Cyclone Nargis, which had devastated the Delta area and Yangon. There were many people at this particular gathering that had lost loved ones, had their homes destroyed and were still struggling to cope. We formed a special circle of about 100 women and prayed together. The faith of these women is truly inspirational.



We were able to see some of the children that we have been supporting over the last year and again had the opportunity to encourage them through God's word.



Our trip was made possible by funding from the "Work Outside the Diocese" Committee.

We are hoping that Mary Andrews College can continue to support and develop this work. For Jackie, Chris and Lyn it has been a challenge to see that we have so many resources in the west. In Australia we don't fully realise the difference we can make in the lives and ministries of our Christian sisters overseas. Please contact us if you would like more information about how you can be involved.

## Become a Friend of MAC

As a new financial year starts, we ask you to prayerfully consider making Mary Andrews College one of the organisations which you support. For more information, please contact Amanda Garlato at MAC.

If you are interested, please tear off the slip below and return it to MAC.

### “Yes, I would like to be a Friend of MAC.”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

I will donate annually / quarterly / monthly / one off

- \$50
- or another amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- to Mary Andrews College
- to the tax-deductible building fund
- I would like to make direct debit donations. Please send the necessary information to me.
- I would like to make an online donation via your website [www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au)
- by cheque (payable to *Mary Andrews College*)
- by Visa / Master card (circle one)  
Card number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Name on card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in making a bequest to MAC. Please contact me.
- Please send me monthly prayer points so that I can support MAC in prayer.

## How is MAC Going?

It is now nearly 18 months since the historic decision was made for Mary Andrews College to hand over the degree theological education side of its ministry fully to Moore Theological College. The Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney Limited (ADISL) contributes significantly to the funding of the female faculty at Moore College. Mary Andrews College no longer participates in the training of these women at Moore College. Instead we are continuing our focus on the training of lay women through the Diploma course, short courses and the annual weekend conference. We are continuing to offer subjects at centres around the Diocese and are developing this work to cater for a wider group of women. For example, in the near future we are hoping to have our first Indigenous Diploma subject offered as an intensive. We also plan to address the needs of working women who need extremely flexible modes of study. We hope to encourage women who are associated with our Diploma course to join short-term missions overseas.



Rev. Jackie Stoneman,  
Director of Studies

These are exciting times to be building on the solid work that Mary Andrews College has done for over 100 years and at the same time to see what new areas God wants us to develop for the extension of his Kingdom.



Dr Karin Sowada (CEO of the Anglican Deaconess Institution Sydney Limited) expressed the goals of our parent organisation (the ADISL) very well at our recent graduation. Dr Sowada said:

*“The Anglican Deaconess Institution, in partnership with other theological education providers, is committed to developing theological education and training for women at all academic levels. But this is not education for its own sake, but rather for the cause of Christ.”*

*“If Christianity, and our particular brand of reformed evangelicalism, is to have any continuing appeal in our post-Christian society where we are engaged in reaching, amongst others, educated and working and non-working women, then we must reflect the world around us as far as we are able, within our own theological constraints.”*

MAC will be an important part of the way these goals are achieved. We value your ongoing support and involvement in this ministry.

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