

MARY ANDREWS COLLEGE: EQUIPPING WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Annette Francis is like many Christian women. She was raised in a Christian environment and throughout her adult life she has made her walk with God a priority. Even with the demanding schedule of being a wife and mum, she made sure she had time each day for prayer and bible reading. In addition, Annette has regularly attended church and bible study.

A few years ago, however, she began to feel like she had become stagnant in her relationship with God. Annette's heart was open, yet she couldn't shake the feeling that there was something more for her. That's when it hit her. She had a yearning to go to Bible college. But how could a mum of four, working for a physiotherapist and serving as a youth group and children's leader, possibly find regular enough gaps in her life for Bible college?

That's when Annette learned of Mary Andrews College.

"I have been blown away with the way God has used me. He had it all planned before I knew what to ask for."

Annette shares, "I found that Mary Andrews College was suited to busy mothers who have to fit everything in. I went fortnightly and in school terms. I found that I really looked forward to my lectures.

Finally after seven years of being a student, a wife, and a mother to my four girls, I finished. I actually graduated!

As I look back now I can see that I had so much on my plate, so much to deal with, so much to do...BUT I am so



Annette Francis – graduated to become a greater influence as a woman to this and the next generation for Christ.

glad that I did it, I am so thankful to God for helping me get through."

Annette had never aspired to being academic. When she was young and at school she focused largely on her social network rather than learning and passing exams. As she grew up Annette rebelled, deciding she wanted to do things her own way and found herself pregnant at nineteen. But our God operates in grace, putting his favour on any who seek him. Speaking about her time in Bible College, Annette recently said, "I have been blown away with the way God has used me. He had it all planned before I knew what to ask for."

In her last year of study she began work at Heathcote/Engadine Baptist Church (HEBC) where she now teaches the children, ...

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Annette and classmate graduating Mary Andrews College

All of them were studying in a way that suited their life needs and those of their families.

... sometimes up to 180 of them, who come through the door each week and during the holiday program, QClub.

Mary Andrews College not only equipped Annette, it also gave her the confidence to share the gospel. When asked which subjects she enjoyed most she said, "Studying Apologetics has really been a great help when talking to people from other religions. When people question me about what I believe, I feel more confident when I answer them.

"Church History was the best as I now have a firm understanding of how the church has evolved, and also understand what the giants of our faith went through in seeking and standing up for the truth.

You think you know your Bible, you think you know all about Christianity, you know all the right words, but when you go to Bible college you find out you don't know as much as you thought you did. Then you realise there is so much more to learn. God,

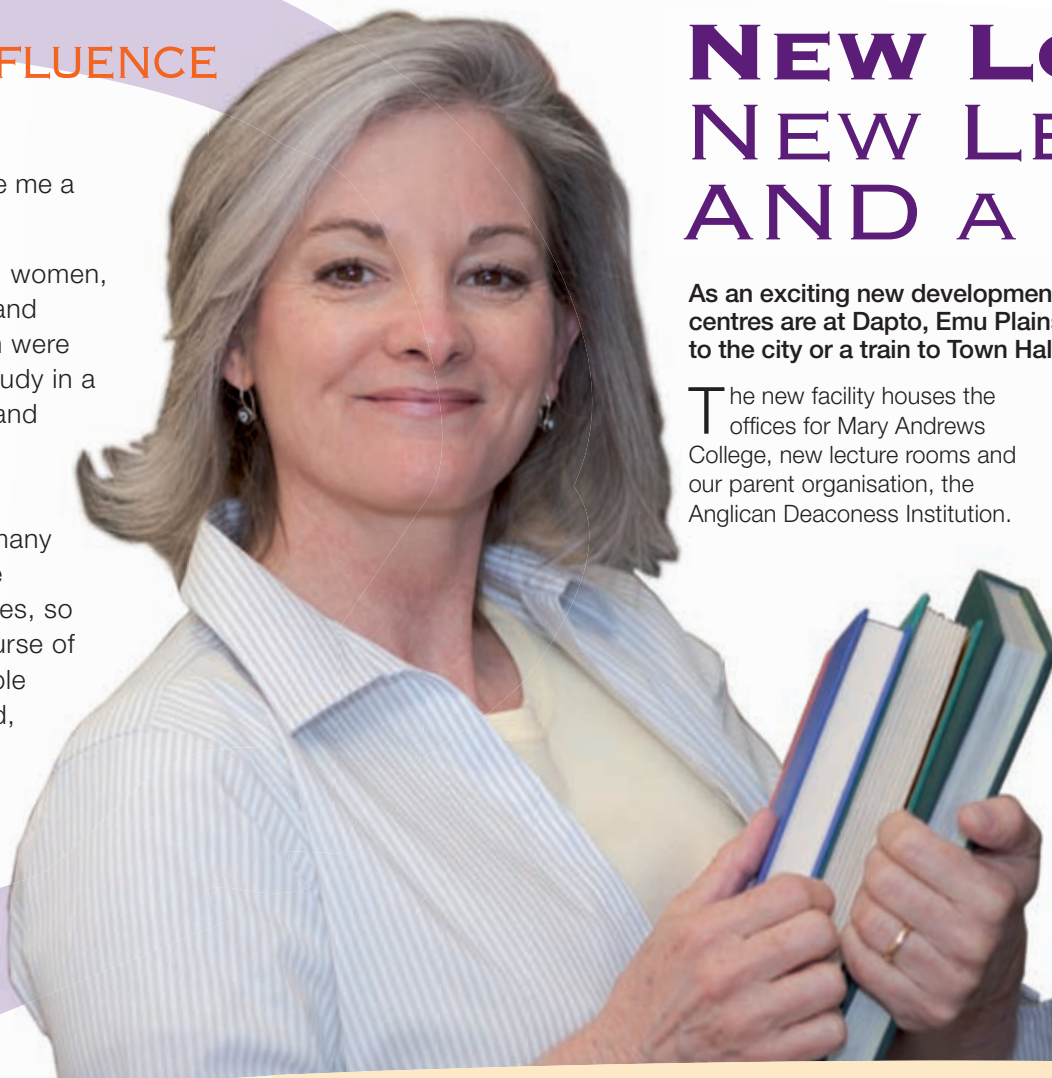
and Mary Andrews College, gave me a great start to doing this."

Annette studied amongst young women, wives, mothers, grandmothers and professional women. All of them were able to design their course of study in a way that suited their life needs and those of their families.

At Mary Andrews College we acknowledge the reality of the many commitments which women like Annette have outside their studies, so we endeavour to make their course of study structured to be compatible with those many demands. And, just like Annette, they become women who influence this and the next generation for Christ.

If you are considering studying with us, visit www.mac.edu.au or call 02 9569 2418

We'd love to hear from you!



NEW LOCATION, NEW LECTURE ROOMS AND A NEW LIBRARY!

As an exciting new development Mary Andrews College has moved to the city! Our regional centres are at Dapto, Emu Plains, Hoxton Park, Miranda and Ryde but now you can hop on a bus to the city or a train to Town Hall station and stay undercover all the way to our brand new location.

The new facility houses the offices for Mary Andrews College, new lecture rooms and our parent organisation, the Anglican Deaconess Institution.

The feature of this new location is our library where there are well appointed work stations and comfy armchairs, making it a great place for students to work on the internet, use our new online resources or sit and read.

New books are coming every day, building the content of the library and helping our students have resources for any subject they are studying. This has been an exciting major project and many of you have already given generously to support it, with the current total of our appeal for \$30,000 now around \$6,000.

Thank you for your support of Mary Andrews College. And if you'd still like to give a gift to

help support our library, visit our website or call the office. Even the smallest donation can put one more book on the shelf! And please come and visit!



The new air-conditioned library is open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday where you can study or read. Or you can catch up with friends in one of the nearby cafés and include some shopping therapy before or after class.

BECOMING A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

Stop and consider the people who most influenced your Christian life, who would they be?

It may be the person who first taught you God's word, or the person who prayed for you, or the one whom you watched living out their faith. Or maybe it is the person who cared for you in a time of crisis.

But there is another way your Christian life can be influenced – one where you personally can shape your journey with God.

Mary Andrews College offers to help you develop your relationship with God and at the same time build skills that will help you benefit your family, your church and God's kingdom. You will be able to influence your community for Christ in a way that you never dreamed possible.

In 2010 we are excited to offer you these courses at Mary Andrews College:

2010 courses

- The Pastoral Care Course - designed to help you care for people. It will build your confidence in knowing how to handle issues that you may meet as you share with people who need encouragement.
- The Certificate Course – builds on the Pastoral Care Course by providing the basic framework for understanding God's word and applying it to your everyday life. It's made up of six subjects you can study at your own pace.
- The Diploma Course – offers a deeper understanding of God's word and the development of practical skills, equipping you to be a Godly woman of influence. You may complete this course over a short or long period of time and FEE-HELP is available.

Classes start in various locations around Sydney from the beginning of February. It's not too late to enrol so visit our website www.mac.edu.au or call 02 9569 2418.



HOW IS MARY ANDREWS COLLEGE FUNDED?

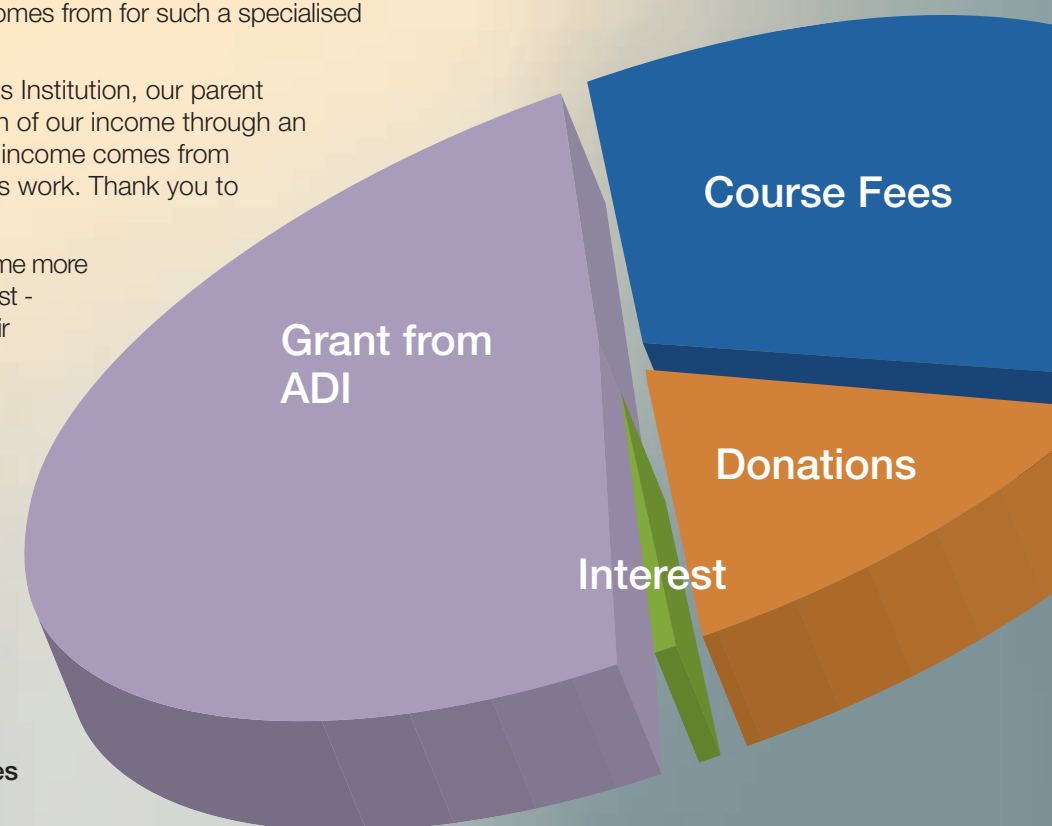
We are often asked where the funding comes from for such a specialised ministry as Mary Andrews College.

As you can see, the Anglican Deaconess Institution, our parent organisation, provides a huge proportion of our income through an annual grant. Currently only 20% of our income comes from people like you who want to support this work. Thank you to those who do faithfully support us.

Our goal is to develop the college to become more effective in equipping women to serve Christ - women who will reach out to people in their communities and churches, sharing the truth of God's word and be practical demonstrations of his love. In order to see this become a reality we will need to see a growth in donations and student numbers in the coming months.

Please join us in praying that God will bring many more women to study at Mary Andrews College and that He will also raise up many more people who will financially support the college's growth.

Please visit our website or phone us for more information about our courses and giving to Mary Andrews College.





A Word from Jackie

Rev Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies

Dear Friend,

It is with wonder and excitement that I stand for a moment in our new library and look around at all the brand new resources and fittings that you have helped us fund over the past few months.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the friends of our college who have given gifts, large and small, to bring us to this point where we can offer such a quality place in which the women of our city can grow spiritually.

A new library, in a new location! And very soon I'll get to meet many new students, some of whom, like Annette Francis (see the story on page 1) have been able to fit Bible college into their home and work lives. Annette's story is such an encouragement to me as it confirms that we are offering a format of study that works for busy women!

As I stand here, I pull a new book off a new shelf. The pages fall open, with the crinkle that only new books make, and I see the word of God expounded. It reminds me of the looks on the faces of the women when they come out of their first lecture – open, excited and overwhelmed, not by the work but by the possibilities in their lives.

At Mary Andrews College I believe that your life can be transformed. And that no matter where you're from, or what you've faced, you can become a woman of godly influence.

If you haven't thought seriously about studying to gain a deeper and practical understanding of God's word, why not think about it now. And may I encourage you to share this newsletter with a friend and help her on the path to becoming better equipped to serve Christ?

I look forward to meeting all our new students over the coming weeks. As I do I'll be reminded that your prayers and gifts are one reason they are able to study at Mary Andrews College.

May you have a wonderful and blessed start to the 2010 study year.

Rev Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies. Mary Andrews College

2010 Events for Your Diary!

This year there is no shortage of things to do at Mary Andrews College, but there are two dates you'll want to put in your diary today.

Graduation **5 March**


This is a significant event in the life of the college! The Graduation will take place on Friday 5 March at 7.30pm in the Chapter House behind St Andrew's Cathedral. This is a great occasion to celebrate with our students who have successfully completed their Diploma course.

Mary Andrews College Conference – "Finding an Oasis" – Refreshment for the Journey **25-27 June**

After our sell-out conference in 2009, now is the time to join those who have already registered for the 2010 conference. Keynote speakers are evangelist and international speaker, Robyn Claydon, as well as Jenni Stoddart and Alison Napier. The program includes great teaching, workshops, praise and worship, personal time for reflection and food all in a beautiful location.

**Register for the Conference
or find out more about the
Graduation**, by going to our website www.mac.edu.au or calling us on 02 9569 2418 just as soon as you've put these dates in your diary.

www.mac.edu.au


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Mary Andrews College
Level 1, St Andrew's House
464-480 Kent St,
Sydney, NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9569 2418
Fax: (02) 9569 8872