



# a word from Jackie

Rev. Jackie Stoneman  
Director of Studies

Dear Friend,

At Mary Andrews College we work hard to equip women to minister in their own communities and wherever else our Lord calls them.

It thrills me that so many have become women of influence after studying our courses, especially the Pastoral Care Course. One such woman is Liz McCoy.

I have been delighted to work with Liz for many years and am excited for her, and sad for us, to see her life's journey take her on to Darwin to teach at Nungalinga College. There's more of Liz's story on page 1 of this newsletter.

On page three you can read about the second trip I took recently with two of our women. Lynn, Chris and I travelled to Myanmar to speak at several women's conferences and visit orphanages and a preschool.

It was such a joy to be able to share with the women of Myanmar about who they are in Christ. They have so many challenges, some like our own, but many that are so unique to their culture. We rejoice that we are all one in Christ with these people. As the Bible says in Galatians 4:28, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

As you read this edition of "in touch" you'll see that, thanks to your gifts and prayers, Mary Andrews College is living up to our vision of equipping women to serve Christ.

I gratefully thank you for your encouraging care and commitment.

Rev. Jackie Stoneman  
Director of Studies  
Mary Andrews College

## Mark your Diary

Many events are happening at Mary Andrews College during 2011 but these are two you should put in your diary now!

### Graduation 4 March

This is a significant event in the life of the college! The ceremony will take place on Friday 4 March at 7.30pm in the Chapter House behind St Andrews Cathedral. This will not only be the graduation for our Diploma students, but also the first graduation for our Pastoral Care students. Please join us in celebrating these great achievements.



### Oasis Conference 1-3 July

**"Who Cares? Pastoral care... more than a band-aid solution"**

Join us for a stimulating yet relaxing weekend of Bible talks, encouragement, prayer, music, quietness and fun on the beautiful northern beaches. Headlining speakers are Jackie Stoneman and Jill McGilvray. There will be lots of workshops to choose from, and well-known Christian singer/songwriter Nicky Chiswell will provide a relaxing concert of her music on the Saturday night.

For more information or to register for the conference see the enclosed Conference flyer or visit [www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au)

## Mary Andrews College helps launch new book 'Out of the Depths'

Dr Helen Rienits is a General Medical Practitioner and a sought-after speaker on depression, and she recently launched her new book at Mary Andrews College.

The book helps us to understand depression in the light of the scriptures and to learn how to support those experiencing depression. Helen has conducted a number of workshops at Oasis Conferences and we are very excited to be associated with this great resource.

To order the book visit [www.acornpress.net.au](http://www.acornpress.net.au)



Jackie and author Dr Helen Rienits at the book launch of 'Out of the Depths.'



in

# Touch

Summer 2011

women of influence through a ministry of care

Your support has helped Liz become a woman of influence to those in need

When friends like you give to Mary Andrews College, your gifts are multiplied in ways you couldn't imagine. As each Mary Andrews College woman uses her training in pastoral situations, thousands of people are cared for across our city – and around the world.

One such incredible woman is Liz McCoy. She says Mary Andrews College became a major milestone in her journey of life and ministry. "In 1988 we moved from our sleepy English village directly into the lives of marginalised people in Redfern", she recently shared. "On our first Sunday morning my husband, Terry, and I visited Redfern's St Saviour's Church. We had nowhere to live so we moved into accommodation above the Crossroads Centre and immediately became involved with the people of Redfern."

Liz loved and cared for the locals including the indigenous people and mentally ill, but she wanted more. Highly qualified, Liz had already earned a degree from Manchester University, England, in Theology, Biblical Studies and English. But her qualifications hadn't equipped her to go into the streets and into homes to minister at a pastoral level.

One of Liz's early experiences was to visit a Housing Commission home where the 16-year-old girl who lived there had a baby and was also involved in prostitution.

"It was such a totally different world, different experience, and so...

*continued on page 2*

**"I really wanted to put time into the pastoral care (subject) because I was already involved with pastoral care in Redfern. Doing that was a huge learning curve for me."**  
Liz McCoy, former MAC student and teacher



Mary Andrews College  
Level 1, St Andrew's House  
464-480 Kent St,  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: (02) 9284 1470  
Fax: (02) 9261 2864  
[www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au)

in this issue

Enrol today!

Oasis Conference raises support for needy women in Myanmar

Events for Your Diary

A Word from Jackie

# Your support has helped Liz become *a woman of influence* to those in need

*continued from page 1*

Through your support Liz is just one of thousands who have studied at Mary Andrews College and have become women of influence through our ministry of care.

... God did really touch my heart for the people," she says.

Liz soon realised she needed to do a course at Mary Andrews College. "I really wanted to put time into the pastoral care (subject) because I was already involved with pastoral care in Redfern. Doing that was a huge learning curve for me."

After completing the course Liz ended up teaching at Mary Andrews College for over a decade, impacting the lives of women who would go on to care for multitudes in their own communities.

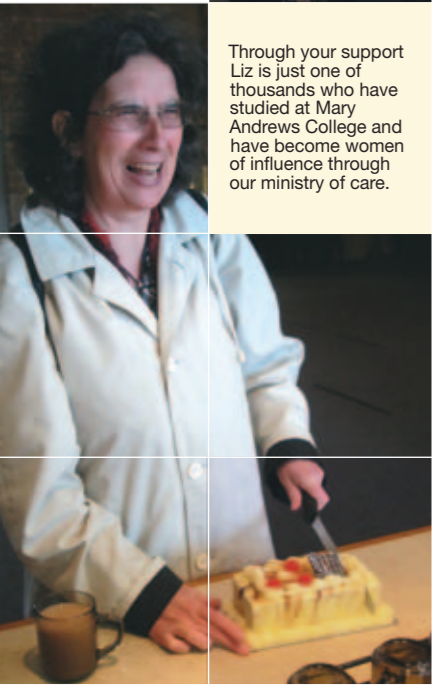
But now Liz's journey is taking her in a new direction. During 2011 she will do missionary training in Victoria and then back in

Sydney. From 2012 Liz will teach theology to indigenous students at Nungalina College in the Northern Territory with the Church Missionary Society.

Through your support, Liz is just one of thousands who have studied at Mary Andrews College and have become women of influence through our ministry of care. We are thrilled that these women grow to live like Mary Andrews herself who served through local and distant missionary work, pioneering and changing lives for Jesus.

Thanks to your gifts and prayers we are able to provide the best of the best for the women who study at Mary Andrews College – including those who pursue pastoral care training. Your giving provides Mary Andrews College with a highly qualified faculty and staff, a well equipped library and courses to suit all areas of ministry. So thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and giving that helps develop women to care on behalf of Jesus Christ.

**Through your support, Liz is just one of thousands who have studied at Mary Andrews College and have become women of influence through our ministry of care.**



Liz at 2010 graduation with Margaret Wesley, Jackie Stoneman & Marge Mills.

# Oasis Conference raises support for needy women in Myanmar

A lady called Marilyn recently wrote to us and said, "Thank you very much for your love and all your support. We really appreciate it. We can now know what is right and teach it in the villages."

Marilyn is the organiser of Myanmar's Mother's Union conferences and was incredibly grateful that Mary Andrews College's Oasis Conference had raised support to help send many spiritually needy women to three conferences across Myanmar.

**Thank you very much for your love and all your support. We really appreciate it. We can now know what is right and teach it in the villages.**



Thanks to your support these Burmese women were able to attend the women's conference in Myanmar.

"Hundreds of women were able to attend after these funds were raised," says Jackie Stoneman, Director of Studies at Mary Andrews College, "because while it only costs around \$10 to send a woman to conference in Myanmar, most women there earn less than 60 cents a day."

This past September, Jackie, along with Chris Gerardis and Lynn Pickersgill, took a three-week trip through Myanmar, and Jackie commented afterwards, "The women of Myanmar are often extremely poor and they are also hungry for God's word. The three of us go over once a year and run conferences throughout the country. We ran three conferences this year, visited small villages, gave



The women attending the conference learnt how to reconcile suffering and God's power in their lives.

equipment to a pre-school and visited two orphanages.

"At each conference we shared about understanding suffering, understanding God's power and control, and understanding who we are in Christ. These teachings helped because many of the women come from difficult family situations and some face persecution made worse because they are the only Christian in their household."

Jackie, Chris and Lynn would not have been able to share God's word in Myanmar without the support of friends like you who gave at the last two Oasis Conferences, so thank you for helping this vital international mission!



The conference team (L-R) Marilyn, Chris, Jackie, Lynn & Rachel.

# Enrol today!

Mary Andrews College wants to help you become a 'woman of influence through a ministry of care'! We have courses available to suit most women, even mums with children at school. Nothing will change your life more than delving into the scriptures and discovering more about God and then, unavoidably, discovering more about where you fit into his plan.

Mary Andrews College is excited to offer you these new subjects:

### Archaeology and the Bible

Understand how archaeology is relevant to the Bible and how it helps people share their faith. Karin Sowada, who will teach this course, is a well known archaeologist and the CEO of the Anglican Deaconess Institution.

### Children's Ministry Skills

Robyn Powell will be teaching this subject and has a wealth of experience in ministering to children and teaching teachers. She will reveal what makes children

tick then give you the tools to share God's love with them.

### Ministry with Seniors

This subject will look at the needs of seniors and the ways we can minister effectively and bring them Jesus' love. Jill McGilvray will teach this course and has much experience working with seniors and as a bereavement counsellor.

Classes start in various locations around Sydney from the beginning of February. To find all the subjects we offer visit [www.mac.edu.au](http://www.mac.edu.au) or call 02 9284 1470.

The Pastoral Care course was such a great success in 2010 that we are already receiving record enrolments for 2011. Please hurry and sign up now for this life-changing course.