

A Life of Service, Enhanced.

Tor McQuillan has lived quite a life. She was a child of the services; her father, Brigadier Oliver David Jackson DSO OBE, was one of the great Australian military commanders of the Vietnam war. She became a wife, a mother grieving the death of her son, then a Mary Andrews College Pastoral Care student. Tor has been putting her hand into God's hand for almost all of her life.



Tor McQuillan



“It hadn't ever occurred to me to do some formal training in pastoral care, and I was, to be honest, absolutely petrified.”

“I grew up in a family where both parents were strong, wonderful Christians. I remember at the age of 6 being aware that I was able to care for other people. At the age of 14, while spending a lonely time at boarding school, I committed my life to the Lord, and knew that he would use me in whatever ministries he deemed fit. Throughout those high school years, as I moved from school to school, state to state, and even country to country, I knew the Lord was my constant companion.”

At the age of 17, Tor found herself in Vietnam, working with the Red Cross, caring for wounded soldiers, writing their letters home, providing comfort when and as she could.

After her marriage and the birth of her two sons, Tor always had a pastoral heart. “I always seemed to be looking after someone”, she says. It was not long after joining St John's Anglican Church in Darlinghurst that Tor had a fateful conversation with Rector Ed Vaughn's wife Jane. Tor, now not working in a paid job and after the marriage of her son, found herself at a loose end. It was Jane who said “You need a bit of a project”, and that led to a conversation about the Pastoral Care Course at Mary Andrews College.

Tor admits to being terrified at the prospect.

“I hadn't studied for over 40 years, and I am completely computer illiterate. It hadn't ever occurred to me to do some formal training in pastoral care, and I was, to be honest, absolutely petrified.”

Fortunately Tor confessed all her fears to her lecturer Jill McGilvray, and Jill's reply was “Don't worry.... we play nice here!”

So Tor began the Pastoral Care Course, and it changed her life.

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"I realized that I have always been an information gatherer. A pastoral carer needs to be a listener. I also realized that pastoral care is not just for giving to Christians. As I became a Christian at a young age, I didn't realize that pastoral care can be a tool for evangelism. God calls us to minister to all people."

Coming to College opened up many different ways of thinking for Tor.

"I suddenly realized that I didn't have to have all the computer and study skills. All I needed was the passion and love to do the course. Some of my classmates were shy and quiet, others were outgoing. It didn't matter. Everyone is there to help. The lecturers help, the other students help you to understand what you need to understand. You don't have to be held back by anything you don't yet know!"

When Tor speaks about her experience at Mary Andrews College, her face lights up, and the passion she talks about bubbles out in her conversation.

"Sometimes, it seems like I spend hours every day caring for someone. But now I have better skills. I realized that most people listen, but don't hear the underlying message. I have learned how to listen for the emotions. Once I understand that, then I can really help. Mary Andrews College has taught me to put aside the old thoughts of 'Am I good enough? Do I know enough?' There is nothing daunting at Mary Andrews College. I am so thankful for the opportunity God gave me to study something I longed to study with like-minded friends. It has been an extraordinary experience!"

We are so grateful for all our students here at College, and when we hear from people like Tor, whose lives have truly been changed by their study here, we cannot help but thank God for bringing people like her to us. ■

"I suddenly realized that I didn't have to have all the computer and study skills. All I needed was the passion and love to do the course."

Flourishing Faith in Dangerous Places

The changing role of women over the last fifty years has brought unprecedented shifts in family and the workplace. How do we biblically navigate this complex landscape in the face of many pressures - the 'sandwich' generation, balancing work, study, ministry and caring, and engaging all we do for the glory of God?

Anglican Deaconess Ministries and Mary Andrews College are delighted to be involved in hosting a conference featuring one of America's foremost Christian thinkers, Kathy Keller.



Kathy Keller

Church in New York City where she still ministers as Assistant Director of Communications.

The second key-note speaker, **Katherine Leary Alsdorf** is the Founder and Director Emeritus of the Centre for Faith and Work at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York City. Prior to

this she had a 20-year career in the technology industry, including CEO roles in the sector. Kathryn is passionate about the need to integrate work and faith, and collaborated on Tim Keller's recent book *Every Good Endeavour: Connecting Your Work to God's Work* (Dutton, 2013).

Be encouraged by God's word, and join with God's people to learn, laugh and refresh your personal mission.

This day conference will be held at the City Recital Hall, Angel Place (behind Martin Place) on Saturday 29 March 2014.

For more information, visit www.oasis.org.au



Katherine Leary Alsdorf

Bring your Bible study group to College!

Nonie Lee, Pastoral Care Course graduate, had a great idea. Nonie told us what came of it.

"I have been a member of Darling Street Ladies Bible Study for about 15 years. It has been an enormous part of my life and a huge encouragement. I would count a lot of the members as my closest friends and greatest support network. Since I enrolled in the Pastoral Care Course at Mary Andrews College two years ago they have been a great source of encouragement and support. They prayed and helped me through it, especially at assignment time!

So when a few members asked me about the course and the College it was only natural (with the encouragement of our great leader Cath!) that we all attend the Open Day together so that they could find out more about it.

I might point out it was my first Open Day as well, and I wish I had been before I started at the College, as I learnt a lot about the other courses and many things I didn't know. Now a couple of the group members are considering studying at College next year. It was a great thing to do as a group, and we had a lovely lunch in the city after it!"

Why not copy Nonie's great idea? Bring your Bible study group to an Open Day. More Open Days will be held on 23 January and at the end of first semester.

Check www.mac.edu.au for dates.



Nonie Lee (right) and her sister Jane Vaughn

Study skills for everyone

**Does the word "study" fill you with fear?
Has it been a few years (or decades!) since you wrote an essay or sat for an exam?**

Fear no longer!



Join Marge Mills as she teaches you how to study. Find out how to read critically and take notes, how to learn facts easily, how to answer the question you are asked and how to find information in books and on the internet.

Learn how to think

theologically and discover what those difficult terms and words you read in books or hear people talk about really mean.

These days are open to everyone, whether you are a Mary Andrews College student or not. Places will fill fast, so book early.

Where: Mary Andrews College
Level 1 St Andrew's House
464-480 Kent St, Sydney 2000

When: Tuesday 4 and
Wednesday 5 February, 2014
(you need to attend both days)
10am-3.30pm

Cost: \$30 for Mary Andrews College enrolled students
\$50 for everyone else
Cost is for both days and includes morning teas.

Register: visit www.mac.edu.au/enrol
or call Sarah on 9284 1470



A word from Jackie

Rev. Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We look forward to what God will show us, challenge us with and bless us with this year.

I've been thinking recently about how we impact the people we meet every day. This impact can be positive, or it can be negative. Often, we have no idea what kind of impact we make on others.

Especially for those of us who know the saving grace of the Lord Jesus, we want that impact to be positive and Christlike.

Here at College, we want to help people positively impact the world for Christ. We know that it is very important for us not only to keep growing in our knowledge of God and his word, but also to keep growing in our character and relationships.

Mary Andrews College exists to equip women to serve Christ, through all of life, in whatever ministries the seasons of life may bring to them.

Women who study here not only value the teaching and the practical nature of many of our units, but they also find an environment that encourages, supports and gently challenges them to keep on growing.

That's why we want to keep developing our curriculum and the opportunities to integrate head and heart.

So, in 2014 we have introduced evening classes, so that women whose work in paid jobs or at home precludes them from

daytime classes can get a clear few hours a week to study the Bible.

It is why we run intensive units, in order that a full semester of classes can be telescoped into just 4 days (plus all the reading and assignments of course!).

It is why we have learning centres in the west and south of the city to help keep travelling times and costs down for those who live in those areas.

It is why we have added new units on Disability and Cross-Cultural Ministry to answer the need of those who live and serve in multicultural areas, as well as those who want to minister better to friends, family and neighbours with disabilities.

We want to keep changing, growing and improving so that we can better help others to minister in their families, churches and communities.

Why don't you come and join us? We would love to be a part of the positive impact you have, for the sake of the gospel, on the world.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Jackie Stoneman,
Director of Studies

Margaret Wesley wears many hats....wife and mother, academic, College lecturer. The hat which is about to top them all is the one that says 'Chair of the Christian Care Network of Australasia (CCNA) Conference.'

CCNA will be running its second conference in June 2014. The title of this conference is Maturity and Grace: Care that brings courage, fruitfulness and hope in later life.

Margaret says, "We have a vision for conferences which look at pastoral care from lots of different perspectives...from the latest academic research, to the experiences of people working on the ground. The reason we chose this topic for our 2014 conference is because everyone is ageing! We all need to face not only our own ageing, but that of our parents and grandparents, our neighbours and friends. We need to hear what God thinks about ageing, and then we need to gather the expertise of those working in the field. We are very pleased that CCNA will again be tying in with Mary Andrews College, and that this conference will act as part of an intensive unit called Ministry With Seniors. We are looking forward to seeing pastoral care workers from all over Australia, as well as Mary Andrews College students as we look at this vital area of ministry."



Margaret Wesley
For more information about this conference, visit www.oasis.org.au



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