



# a word from Jackie

Rev. Jackie Stoneman,  
Director of Studies

Dear Friends,

Here we are, halfway through the year, and the busyness I *thought* we were going to experience this year has certainly happened!

Semester 1 is almost over, and we are thrilled to have our enrolment numbers steadily climbing. Traditionally, we drop numbers a little in Semester 2, but we are praying that the Lord may continue to send us many, many people who want their hearts and minds trained and equipped to serve him!

We are also heading into a HUGE month of conferences! Our usual Oasis Conference is being augmented this year by the first ever Christian Care Network of Australasia Conference, and a Marriage Seminar for people in full-time ministry. Dr Sharon Morris May is about to arrive in the country, and she is almost as excited about coming as we are to have her here!

Then, I am taking a team of people with me to Tasmania to help train some of the church leaders there. We are packing our winter woollies, and are looking forward to sharing with our southernmost brothers and sisters.

In November, Col Marshall is going to be presenting another Vinegrowers Conference... this time at Dapto. We were thrilled with the positive response we received from everyone after Col led us in a great training day way back in March. So we hope everyone who couldn't make it along then can come to this day. Check the website for all the details.

I want to say thank you for the fantastic response we are seeing to our library appeal. Our librarian Barbara Van Waart is like a child at Christmas time! She can't wait to start ordering even more books, and she never gets sick of opening the packages of books which are starting to arrive. Most importantly, next semester our students in Dapto, Hoxton Park and Emu Plains will be thrilled when the books they need are there, waiting for them. They will be able to pick them up straight away, rather than put their names on a waiting list.

Finally, thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for us all, especially for those who have the responsibility for the smooth running of the conferences over the next few weeks. It's a huge task, and we cannot do it in our own strength!

In His Name,

Rev. Jackie Stoneman  
Director of Studies  
Mary Andrews College

## An Update from the McCoy's

Former Mary Andrews College lecturer Liz McCoy and her husband Terry are ministering with CMS in the Northern Territory. Liz recently sent us an update.

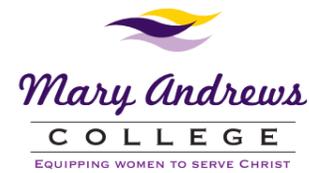
*"We have had a wonderfully encouraging couple of months here on Groote Eylandt with 40 folk attending the Good Friday Service and four adults and five children being baptised on Easter Sunday. Those baptised included a couple, and two young mums who are sisters with their children. I felt really privileged to be part of the faith journey of the sisters, as I took them through the baptism course specially written for these communities.*

*Benjamin and Johnnie (retired deacons) have started a weekly Tuesday 4pm Bible study for all church members and any others interested. Last week four men and eight women attended. Terry will meet the men during the week so they can prepare the questions together.*



Praise God that 4 adults and 5 children were baptised on Easter Sunday!

*We LOVE being here. We will really miss folk when we go and are thrilled that so many have enrolled for courses at Nungalingya College. Sickness and sadness are still the order of the day for folk here. Please continue to pray for the community generally that the faith in Christ that many have will become the overriding factor guiding their lives. Please also pray for the Bible convention looking at Genesis 1-9 that will be hosted by the Umbakumba church from 6-13 July, that other communities will attend, God will speak to people's hearts and minds, the churches will be encouraged to persevere with joy and lives will be transformed."*



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# Touch

Winter 2012

Applying God's word to heart and mind



## 2 new Graduates, 2 new beginnings

Mary Andrews College 2012 graduates, Lisa Champion and Mandy Muir

The Mary Andrews College Graduation 2012 has come and gone. Among the twenty Pastoral Care Course graduates and eight Diploma graduates were Lisa Champion and Mandy Muir. Both women were thrilled to be graduating, but are also excited at their future prospects.

Mandy always wanted to study at Bible College but family, finances and work commitments always seemed to get in the way. At the recommendation of several people she began her Diploma of Theology at Mary Andrews College.

*"The hours and the following of school term time was perfect for me. The locations*

*were easy to reach, and the lecturers were really good. Even though I have finished my*

**"I also wanted to immerse myself in Christian thought about caring for others."**

*diploma, I'd really like to come back and study all the interesting subjects I couldn't fit in!"*

Mandy has achieved the very thing she wanted during her studies... a paid job in pastoral care! She is now a permanent pastoral care worker at Calvary Hospital, where her time has been divided between the rehabilitation and palliative care wards.

Meanwhile, Lisa Champion, who graduated from the Pastoral Care Course, has also made a new beginning as a result of her studies.

*"I decided to enrol in a graduate diploma in counselling. But I also wanted to immerse myself in Christian thought about caring for..."*

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## 2 new Graduates, 2 new beginnings

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... others. A friend recommended the Mary Andrews College Pastoral Care Course, so I enrolled in that as well. As a result I now have a beautiful extra layer over the top of my counselling skills."

When we asked Lisa about the single best thing at the Pastoral Care Course she had no hesitation. "My teacher... Jill McGilvray! What a blessing to be taught and mentored by her. I wish I could have opened up my brain and just poured Jill into it! She has such a passion for caring and such a huge heart for God."

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When we asked Lisa about the single best thing at the Pastoral Care Course she had no hesitation. “My teacher... Jill McGilvray!  
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Lisa has now turned her studies into a new job. After many years working as an exercise therapist for people suffering chronic pain, she recently opened a counselling practice under the auspices of her church. She hopes to provide affordable counselling for church members and the wider community. But her studies were not just a means to a job at the end.

She says, "So many conversations in our day to day lives can turn into caring conversations. Even if I never worked professionally in pastoral care, I feel I am a brighter light for the Lord because of what I learned at Mary Andrews College."



Diploma of Theology graduate, Mandy Muir

## Graduation 2012

The Mary Andrews College graduation ceremony was held on Friday 30 March at the Chapter House, St Andrew's Cathedral. Around one hundred family members and friends of the graduates turned up to lend their support for the evening.

This year seven people graduated with a Diploma, one with an Advanced Diploma and twenty women received Pastoral Care Course certificates. The keynote speaker for the evening was Simone Sietsma, a Director of Anglican Deaconess Ministries, who gave an entertaining talk about the differences between generations.

Dr Karin Sowada, CEO of Anglican Deaconess Ministries, and Rev. Dr Mark Harding, Dean of the Australian College of Theology, also spoke during the evening and added their congratulations to the graduates.

Lecturer Jill McGilvray interviewed Samantha Castley, a Diploma graduate, and Jean Whitfield, a Pastoral Care Course graduate, about their journeys at College. Both

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“I have been nourished by God through the gifts He has given to the staff of Mary Andrews College.”  
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Anette Lee receives the Mary Andrews prize from Dr Karin Sowada

spoke movingly of the things they had learned, the relationships they had formed, and the life-changing effect of the College on them and their ministries.

Anette Lee was the winner of the Mary Andrews Prize this year. She was thrilled and told us, "I am embarrassed at being rewarded 'by man' when I have been nourished by God through the gifts He has given to the staff of Mary Andrews College. Their vision, leadership, dedication and professionalism in teaching, sharing and encouraging students are a real joy."

Graduation is such an important night for the college every year. It celebrates the academic and personal achievements of people from every imaginable background. We are so thankful to God that Graduation 2012 was yet another way to glorify him.

# A New Oasis

Mary Andrews College is very proud to announce the beginning of a new ministry... Oasis Conferences!

But wait, you say, the Oasis name has been around for a couple of years now. What's new about that?

We are expanding the name "Oasis" to become a separate entity. From now on, Oasis will mean not only our annual weekend conference in June/July, but a series of other conferences, day conferences and seminars. Some of the conferences will be held at regular intervals. The Christian Care Network of Australasia (CCNA) conference - which is coming up at the end of June - will be held every two years, with the aim of building a strong network of Christian people who work in caring professions.

But there will be other conferences and seminars (like the Marriage Seminar for people in full time ministry) which will be one-offs. This gives us enormous flexibility to hold the conferences YOU want, covering topics which impact you

and your ministry.

We recognize that we (especially those of us in the Sydney area) are blessed with a number of excellent conferences. But we feel that Mary Andrews College - the pastoral care college - is in a unique position to offer practical training and equipping, especially for women. Already we know that many people are taking the training they have received at College (in courses and at conferences) into their churches and communities.

So it is with great excitement and prayerfulness that we launch the Oasis Conferences website! Please visit us at [www.oasis.org.au](http://www.oasis.org.au). Give us your details, send us an email, like us on Facebook!

Most of all, please pray for this new venture; that through Oasis Conferences many people might come to know, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of Sydney.

Oasis Conferences  
Be refreshed in God's Word

applying God's word to heart and mind

We are now offering a range of intensives throughout Semester 2. Intensives can stand alone, or become a part of your Certificate or Diploma.

**In the City**  
Subject: Understanding Grief  
28-29 June, 9am - 5pm  
(as part of the CCNA Conference)  
27 July, 10am - 2pm  
28 July, 10am - 3pm

**At Dapto Anglican Church**  
Subject: Ministry With Seniors  
24-25 August, 9.30am - 4pm  
14-15 September, 9.30am - 4pm

**At Hoxton Park Anglican Church**  
Subject: Pastoral Care  
21-22 September, 9.30am - 4pm  
19-20 October, 9.30am - 4pm

### Semester 2 - 2012

Location	Subject	Start Dates	Course
City Mondays	Old Testament Prophets and Writings	16 July, fortnightly	Diploma
	Psalms and Ezra	23 July, fortnightly	Diploma
City Tuesdays	Ministry With Seniors	17 July, fortnightly	Diploma and Certificate
	Christian Belief	24 July, fortnightly	Certificate
City Wednesdays	God & the Person & the Work of Christ	18 July, fortnightly	Diploma
	Theology for Everyday Life	25 July, fortnightly	Diploma
City Thursdays	Pastoral Care	19 July, fortnightly	Diploma, Certificate and Pastoral Care Course
	Early Church History	26 July, fortnightly	Diploma
City Fridays	Practical Pastoral Care	20 July, fortnightly	Diploma, Certificate and Pastoral Care Course
	New Testament Overview	27 July, fortnightly	Certificate
Dapto Tuesdays	Christian Maturity	17 July, fortnightly	Diploma
Emu Plains Mondays	The Reformation	16 July, fortnightly	Diploma
Hoxton Park Fridays	Overview: The Gospels	20 July, fortnightly	Diploma

APPLY NOW!

Visit the website [www.mac.edu.au/Courses](http://www.mac.edu.au/Courses) or call 02 9284 1470 for more details