



MERCY COLLEGE ALUMNI

Where are they now?

<p><i>Introducing :</i></p>	<p><i>Class of 1998</i> <i>Name: Josephine Tyrrell (nee Ponzio)</i></p>
<p><i>Questions :</i></p> <p><i>Hello Josie!</i></p> <p><i>Thanks for sharing your story!</i></p>	<p><i>Responses:</i></p> <div data-bbox="751 517 1262 1301" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>You're very welcome! ☺</p>
<p><i>Do you remember what it was like at College and when you left?</i></p>	<p><i>(Fears, aspirations, friends, what you took away from the Catholic ethos of our College)</i></p> <p>Mercy is a great place which holds lots of wonderful memories for me.</p> <p>I would listen, enthralled, to Mrs Jeffrey teach Egyptian history. I'd get my fingers dusty cooking scones in Home Economics. Mr Joy enthusiastically taught us about recessive and dominant genes in Biology and Mrs Wickremasinghe opened our minds to the world around us in Geography.</p> <p>What stays with me the most is how I have made lifelong friends. They were with me through the school years, through University and now, in my adult life, we still catch up, still support each other. I remember, toward the end, being full of hope for the future, that bubbling sensation of excitement of what was yet to be. At the same time I was sad that it was the end of an era; you get used to seeing the same smiling faces every day, chatting about nothing in particular. Suddenly, that comfort was gone and I had to face life with the tools I had been taught. But overall, I was happy and excited and couldn't wait to start my tertiary study.</p>



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<p><i>Did you set out with a career plan?</i></p>	<p><i>(Further study: What did you do / where did you go?)</i></p> <p>My plan started with getting into University to study! My first preference was the University of Melbourne, which I achieved, where I studied Arts. Inspired by the brilliant Mrs Jeffrey - so many wonderful memories of her classes! - I majored in History and Italian, and furthered my degree with Honours in Italian. Stepping out from the academic world and into the corporate, I worked in legal firms as a personal assistant and legal secretary. Seeking more challenge, I entered into the public service with the DHS. From there I moved to the ATO to broaden my horizons. I have had many roles throughout my path, from case manager, site coordinator and events planner, to executive assistant to recruitment officer. Currently I am a recruitment officer in Talent Acquisition. This demonstrates the beauty of humanities degrees: they open you up to a world of possibilities, where anything is achievable if you have the courage to give it a go! So many times I have said yes to a new role, leaving a comfortable role I know well. Each time it is daunting. Each time I accepted the risks. Each time I made it work. The experience and knowledge I have gained from each role has been priceless. That attitude has brought me to where I find myself today, and it is an attitude that was instilled into me from back in my school days.</p>
<p><i>What were the significant milestones that have impacted your life journey so far?</i></p>	<p><i>(Key pivotal points marking your inspirations, success) (family support, business success)</i></p> <p>From a personal perspective, the most significant milestones have been getting married to my high-school sweetheart Jeremy in 2003 (we met at the Year 10 ball!) and having our son Joseph (Joey) in 2013. From a career perspective, it has definitely been entering into the public service. I am grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me! Hitting the long-service mark in the public service was a great achievement for me - time has flown! It is true that if you enjoy what you do, you'll never work a day. -- Having a family, a career, friends, a house, security, I wonder what I'll do next?</p>



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	 <p><i>Picture: Jeremy, Joey and I on holidays earlier this year ☺</i></p>
<p><i>Where has your careerpath taken you in terms of connecting with wider organisations, meeting people of varying cultures; locally and internationally?</i></p>	<p><i>(Did your career path include travel? What have other cultures taught you? Personal growth etc)</i></p> <p>Throughout my academic and professional career I've met people from various walks of life and persuasions. I've rubbed shoulders with lawyers and business owners, with hippies and geeks, with immigrants who can speak five languages, with rabid political advocates, with hirsute horticulturists. I'm more aware of the intentions of others, and I understand, much more than I ever did, people's motivations. Working hard has allowed me to travel overseas with my husband. I love getting to see how people live in other countries but, most of all, I love spending time with my family in Italy and immersing myself in the culture of "la dolce vita".</p>
<p><i>Have you maintained any school friendships?</i></p>	<p><i>(College friends – maintaining friendships – what has this meant for you? Support?)</i></p> <p>I have maintained a very close friendship with two of my Mercy friends – Juliet and Maryanne – and I have connected with many others on social media. It has been wonderful reconnecting with old friends and seeing what has been happening in their lives! Juliet and Maryanne have been there through all of my milestones (wedding, children) and their support has been so special. I hope to be joking and laughing together with them forever!</p>



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<p><i>What's next for you?</i></p>	<p><i>Picture: Juliet, Maryanne & I</i></p> <p><i>(What would you like to see / experience in the future?)</i></p> <p>I would love to travel more, and this time with our little boy. Next destination is the grand old USA; it has always been a dream of mine! And we are also renovating our home at the moment so it will be an exciting and busy year for us. I am a bit of a health and fitness fanatic so I think another challenge is on the cards (following my Eureka Climb in 2011 and the MCG Stadium Stomp in 2014! See pictures below)</p> 



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<p><i>Mercy College are working on building the Alumni foundation network: past students and teachers.</i></p> <p><i>Would it interest you to give a short talk to current students at an assembly?</i></p> <p><i>The objective being a form of encouragement and interest for students and teachers alike.</i></p>			<p><i>(Connecting past students with present students)</i> Sure, sounds great!</p>
<p><i>Future Alumni reunions – past students and teachers, will take place every year on the third Sunday in October.</i></p>			<p><i>(Would you be willing to speak briefly to those in attendance?)</i> Yes, I would love to!</p>