The Catherine McAuley school crest is based on one that has been used by the Sisters of Mercy in Australia since the mid 1960s. The seven bars represent the seven spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

**SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**
- instruct the ignorant
- counsel the doubtful
- admonish sinners
- bear wrongs patiently
- forgive offences willingly
- comfort the afflicted
- pray for the living and the dead

**CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**
- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- clothe the naked
- bury the dead
- shelter the traveller
- comfort the sick
- free the imprisoned

The cross denotes a Christian community while the school motto ‘Altiora quaerite’ is a Latin phrase which means ‘Strive for higher things’. 
“I never wanted my time at McAuley to end. It was more than a school; it was a place where I felt safe and valued; it felt like a home. When my school days came to an end, I was comforted by the fact that ‘you can take the girl out of McAuley but you can’t take McAuley out of the girl’.

JO EDWARDS
Top: Year 7 2016 - the school has grown from 146 students in Form 1 1966 to 194 Year 7 students in 2016

Middle: 1972 - School Grounds now known as Coolock Court

Left: 1970 - Cheer squad before Combined Mercy Swimming Carnival

Opposite: 1966 - First day of school. Sr Eugene Dobson, founding Principal, with Sr Anne, Sr Jerome, Sr Eugene, Sr Pauline, Mrs Banks and Sr Maria Goretti outside their lunchroom.
Thank you to everyone who helped make this book a true celebration of the past 50 years of McAuley: past students, staff and parents who contributed their time, memories and photographs for inclusion in this - our ‘Book of Memories’. Research for this book began many years ago with Sr Barbara McDonough collecting memories from past students and staff. The collection of these memories accelerated this year particularly through the Catherine McAuley Westmead Alumni Facebook page as well as email, telephone calls and in person. We are indebted to those who have contributed and who have therefore helped tell the story of our school.

In a school as busy as McAuley it is impossible to include everything that has taken place over the past 50 years but on these pages you will find the major events and the memories of those who answered the call for contributions. Memories may fade with time and one person’s memory may be different from another’s but the memories here are as the person does indeed remember them.

This book would not have been possible without Sr Barbara and her vision many years ago that such a book would be a wonderful celebration of our golden jubilee. She has worked tirelessly as a researcher and has been an incredible teammate in a project that has taken over our lives this past year.

One thing that I have certainly learnt in putting this book together is that McAuley is a special place and holds a special place in the hearts of so many. May this continue for another 50 years.

Jacqui Hamilton
School Development Officer
Catherine McAuley Westmead, 2007 - present
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1: A new school called Catherine McAuley Westmead</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2: 1967-1973</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3: 1974-1981</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4: 1982-1987</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 5: 1988-1995</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 6: 1996-2005</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 7: 2005-2016</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Features</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“When you look back on your years at Catherine McAuley, you will hopefully appreciate that your school has been a place of community, of friendship, of faith and of compassion.”

HILARY JOHNSTON-CROKE,
PRINCIPAL’S GRADUATION ADDRESS
TO THE CLASS OF 1996
Our Book of Memories is not just another school yearbook – it is much, much more. Our Book of Memories details our rich and proud history and achievements as well as insights and anecdotes from staff and students past and present.

This book aims to show how our school community has changed over the last 50 years, yet it also illustrates how some things have never changed. While our school buildings and population have grown, the spirit of McAuley girls and their love for their school remain as strong as ever.

Staff and students remain thoroughly connected to the spirit and vision of Catherine McAuley and throughout our history have truly embraced her wise words—“to perform the ordinary, extraordinarily well”.

Our Book of Memories connects all who have at some time or another called Catherine McAuley Westmead ‘home’. These pages contain the shared wisdom and experience that continue to shape us as a school community today. Each year in our history builds on the one before it and the memories contained here are also a testimony to the strength and vision of the Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta.

Thank you to the absolute commitment of the team that produced this book – Sr Barbara McDonough past Principal 1984-1987, Jacqui Hamilton our School Development Officer, Vicki Baiada Alumni President and Alumni members Louise Pritchard and Matty Weiss. This team has worked tirelessly to ensure that our history and story was captured to be shared by McAuley girls past, present and future.

Enjoy reading about our journey from 1966 to 2016 and find time to remember and celebrate your part in our history.

Laetitia Richmond
Current Principal