Maree Kendall (nee Eggleton) moved from St Patrick’s to Catherine McAuley in February 1966. She was one of the original students who came at the beginning of that year to the demountables that had been erected on the grounds to house the students while the main buildings were still being finished. Maree completed her School Certificate in 1967. She also had a sister at the school, Carol Eggleton, who is four years her junior. Maree remembers:

- Walking on planks over the mud to the demountables
- Raising money for the missions with concerts (miming Cliff Richards)
- Playing guitars and singing folk hymns, and loving it
- Paddocks and horses to ride after school
- Watching the cadets march from the library at lunch time
- No fraternising with the Marist Brothers boys to and from school!
- Tactical marching squad
- Netball competitions
- Choir practice and recording our first single record with Sr Pauline
- Drama group with Mrs Banks
- Winning the Genesian Festival (dressed in Sisters of Mercy’s black habits)
- Winning the Parramatta Eisteddfod
- Kneeling and having your dress length measured (the battle of the mini skirt)
- Swimming squad at the orphanage pool
- Playing the life of Catherine McAuley in the 1967 end of year concert

Maree Kendall (nee Eggleton), Form 3 1966 (Class of 1967)
We also weren’t allowed to talk to the boys or walk anywhere near their grounds, although everyone caught the bus to and from school together.

“I can remember my time at Catherine McAuley was mostly uneventful, but I did like to go with my friends down to the riding school fence at the bottom of the school grounds and feed the horses carrots. I also got into trouble a few times for looking out the window across the road watching the trotters go around the track.

I remember when we went across to the pool in the Marist Brothers grounds for our swimming lessons no-one was allowed to wear a bikini, it was too distracting for the boys, and if anyone had a bikini on they had to put a shirt on or they couldn’t go into the pool. We also weren’t allowed to talk to the boys or walk anywhere near their grounds, although everyone caught the bus to and from school together.

I don’t remember much about my formal except that the school invited boys from Marist next door so that if we didn’t have a boy to invite ourselves we still had a dance partner.”

Bernadette Ramage (nee Leeder) Class of 1971

MEMORIES FROM TANYA HULBERT 1968 - 1971

Tanya Hulbert attended Catherine McAuley from 1968 - 1971 and she believes it was the ‘best’ school.

“I was supported and encouraged and accepted for who I was. I had great fun and loved going to school. The school motto, ‘To strive for higher things’, says it all. I loved the school song and I still get emotional when I hear the music (UWS play it at their graduation ceremonies). While I wasn’t the most conscientious student, I learnt that I could achieve if I worked hard,”

Highlights for Tanya include:
• Year 10 excursion to Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in 1971.
• Going to Channel 10 to watch our school compete in ‘It’s Academic’.
• Travelling to North Sydney to watch a play in French on the day Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon.
• Masses in the chapel for each form. The chapel then was the Marist Brothers’ chapel as part of the monastery.
• End of year dance for Form 4
• Inter-school and Combined Mercy sports carnivals. I only marched as I wasn’t good at sport.
• Our uniform – we had the coolest and best uniform of all the schools.

Tanya Hulbert 1968 - 1971

Above: 7th October 1971: Form 4, including Bernadette Leeder
Denise Cohen (nee Todd) remembers walking through Parramatta Park from St Patrick’s to Catherine McAuley Westmead as one of the inaugural students back in February 1966. Denise was in Form 3.

“I remember the day we were all organised for the move over to Catherine McAuley. We were initially in the prefabricated buildings that were stifling that summer with no air conditioning! There was a farm at the rear of the demountables with cows and horses in the paddocks. I remember being told by Sr Maria Goretti to go out and walk with the cows if I was so disinterested in the maths class that was taking place. I walked around and around the buildings all afternoon. She forgot about me!!! I loved looking out onto the paddocks but never did it again when I was in her class! It was lovely once we were able to move into the new school buildings. I loved the new science laboratory in particular.

I have fond memories of the teaching staff at the time, Sr Mary Anne was Principal and Sr Pauline and Sr Maria Goretti were my favourites. I also liked Sr Laurentia, my Geography teacher. I remember well our dear Deportment and Sewing teacher, Mrs Mulligan, and I have always remembered a few of her sayings. One of her favourites was ‘Men do not sweat, they perspire and ladies just feel the heat’. I used to catch the train from Merrylands to Granville and then the steam train from Granville to Westmead. It was so funny when we arrived at school with sooty faces! I also remember having to walk on opposite sides of the road from the station when the Marist boys moved out to Westmead. I have fond memories of the new school uniform. It was designed by an Australian fashion designer and was very smart. I remember going to the fashion parade and launch for the uniform at Parramatta Pool.”

Denise Cohen (nee Todd) Class of 1967