



st mary's women

## DANA HLAVACEK ('79) Non-Executive Director



*"We are really privileged to attend St Mary's.  
Take advantage of the opportunities and experiences on offer."*

I started in Grade 1 at St Mary's in 1968 when the Junior School was still in Colin Street in West Perth. I undertook all my schooling at St Mary's, other than 18 months spent in Darwin.

In Year 12 I decided I wanted to take a non-traditional path (at the time) and studied engineering. It was quite a change for an only child who had been at a girls' school until then. I only lasted two terms at UWA. Being thrown in with a mass of boys behaving strangely was overwhelming!

After working as a poolie in Fremantle, I realised I definitely wanted an indoor career and completed a Bachelor of Commerce at UWA. I spent the next 7 years at KPMG, building a valuable skill base.

I then moved to Rio Tinto where I stayed for the rest of my executive career, moving to Melbourne in 1992. There I had many wonderful opportunities, including leading and participating in global projects. I was also able to build knowledge across many aspects of the business, which were all very valuable for the directorships I now hold.

I am currently a non-executive director with a portfolio that includes Melbourne Water, the Victorian Arts Centre Trust, and the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, and I chair the audit committee of the Brotherhood of St Laurence. My experience now allows me to work in a variety of organisations.

One of the greatest gifts from St Mary's has been lifelong friendships. Even though I have lived in Melbourne for over 20 years, whenever I meet up with the group of St Mary's girls, some of whom I started Grade 1 with, it is as though the conversation hasn't been interrupted – we just pick up where we left off. There is something very special about the relationship I have with girls I have grown up with.

We are really privileged to attend St Mary's. Take advantage of the opportunities and experiences on offer, even if they don't sound like something you would enjoy. You just don't know until you try – take the risk to test yourself!

