

CARMEL COLLEGE

Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

A Brief History of Carmel College

In 1957, the long held dream of the Sisters of Mercy to establish a Catholic girls' school on the North Shore was realised.

On land purchased from the Poynton family, Sr. Mary Justine Gillies was given the mission of founding Carmel College, initially with fifteen students and no actual classrooms. Sr Justine gathered dedicated teaching Sisters and, as the school grew, these Sisters were joined by the first full-time lay teacher, Mrs Verena Butler, in 1963.



Carmel's first 16 students celebrating the opening of the College in 1957 with a morning tea

In 1975, ill health forced Sr. Mary Justine's resignation but her contribution to education had been recognised with the award of the MBE in 1972.

The intervening years, from the first fifteen students to Carmel's current maximum roll of nine hundred and fifty, are a testament to Sr. Mary Justine's vision, faith, relentless hard work and determination to provide the very best in Catholic education for young women.

In 1975, Sr. Monica Costello became Carmel's second principal, having taught at Carmel since 1959. It was her challenging task to shepherd Carmel through the difficult years of Integration Agreement, which was signed in 1981. At the end of 1982, Sr. Monica was elected Superior-General of the Auckland Sisters of Mercy: "a true successor to Cecilia Maher".

Carmel's third principal, Sr. Pauline Engel, was the first to be appointed in 1983 by Carmel's Board of Governors.

The first lay Principal, Mrs. Collene Roche, began her duties in 1991 and served until mid-2003.

The current Principal is Kath Deady.

This book is available at a cost of \$20
Please contact
parmstrong@carmel.school.nz or
the College Office if you are interested in
purchasing a copy

