

## Marie Myers—Dux in 1984

My name is Marie Myers and I attended Babinda High School for five years, after attending Mirriwinni State School for several years. I was born in Babinda and grew up on Bucklands Road just outside of Bramston Beach. I consider myself very lucky to have had such a wonderful childhood, growing up so close to nature and also to have had a great education. After attending Babinda High school, I went on to study at the University of Queensland (degrees in both Liberal Arts and Economics) in Brisbane and then later studied my Masters in Business Administration in the United States. Today I live in Houston Texas, where I am now married with 3 kids and have been working in the Technology Industry for Hewlett Packard, the world's largest technology company, for almost 15 years. I have travelled the world and had many different experiences and the opportunity to play key leadership roles inside of one of America's largest technology companies. I am now a Vice President of Finance and have held several key executive roles in the company for more than one decade.



The skills that helped to make me successful in my international career stem from my early days of studying at Babinda, where I had the opportunity to develop some of my talents, such as public speaking. While I was at high school I was supported by all my teachers to pursue my passion in professional speaking and debating and no doubt this was the foundation of what built some of my confidence in speaking and dealing with people all over the world.

Similarly, I believe that the support I received from the community and my family to pursue my education made a tremendous difference in my life. My mother played a very active role in my education and personally knew many of my teachers from growing up in the community. I believe it was a unique experience and one I wish I could only emulate for my own children. My teachers were very committed to my academic and personal success and were very supportive of my endeavours.

Other key experiences that I believe were unique, include the fact that I was able to study Italian since my early childhood days at Mirriwinni State School and then later pursue further studies in Italian at Babinda High School. This experience gave me the foundation to learn Spanish, which I use daily in my life. Another unique experience that came from growing up in the community that was largely influenced by the Italian population and encouraged in the local education system.

Due to the small class sizes at Babinda, I also had to take several subjects by distance education and this gave me a chance to get one on one support, which was a real asset in preparing me for University.

Finally, I formed lifelong friendships during my years at Babinda High School and am still in close contact with many of the people that I grew up with. Even though I live outside of Australia, I find that the closeness that I developed with several friends is so special that it transcends countries and borders and most importantly, years and

decades.

Regards

*Marie*