

# Gawler & District College B-12 students go places.

## Karen Redman Class of 1978 - Mayor of Gawler

In 2010 Karen Redman made a grand entrance into the world of politics as an elected member of Gawler, although she notes that she was raised by a family who always discussed politics, highlighted the importance of political impacts on communities and told fond stories of family members who have made huge impacts in politics.

Graduating from Gawler High School (Now Gawler and District College B-12) in 1978, she originally aimed for the medical field. She studied nursing at the Lyall McEwin hospital, before graduating with a Bachelor of Nursing Studies at UniSa in 1996, and with a Master's degree in Nursing Science in 2009. She worked in Breast Cancer Care for over a decade before being endorsed as a Breast Cancer Nurse Practitioner in 2010.

Although the jump from Nursing to Politics in 2010 may appear strange; both fields engaged with Karen's love of community service and engagement. She notes that it was her concerns over the local infrastructure that captured her interest in politics and notes that "My family always taught me not to be afraid to walk through different doors. That you can do anything if you really want to."

This philosophy has seen Karen elected as the Mayor of Gawler in 2014.

She is also the first female mayor in the history of Gawler. "[In school] Kids used to leave quite early. A lot left during Year 10. There were no scholarships, no extra finances." She recalls the top math student who was dissuaded from pursuing math as a career because of her gender, who also left high school during Year 10.

Remembering her graduating year, Karen fondly remembers her Year 12 Biology teacher, under encouraged her to study blood groups as a Biology Project, often researching at the Barr Smith Library. She also fondly recalls her Year 12 English teacher helped her research a project on World War 1, explaining "I still remember some of the poets. It was very powerful. It still affects me to this day."



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