Good Evening! Tonight, on the occasion of this wonderful All Saints birthday, I thought I would tell you a little about Marsden as it was in my time.

After attending our village Primary School, I came to Marsden when it reopened after the war in 1948. Schools, particularly Girls' Schools were very different from those of today. Beverly from Gulargambone and I arrived a day earlier than the other girls - excited but rather nervous. After our folk left, the Headmistress sent us out to see the Chapel and gardens. A rather shabby man in dungarees was still working on the garden beds, but it all looked lovely. Later Miss Appel announced we were to have the honour of meeting the Bishop - who turned out to be the garden labourer - Arnold Lomas Wylde - a wonderful man devoted to Marsden. Our day began with the rising bell at 6 am. After dressing we had morning prep - no heating so not a very comfortable time in winter - back then to make our beds and woe to any girl whose hospital corners didn't satisfy Matron. Breakfast was followed by Chapel Service and then morning lessons. Lunch was our main meal at which we were joined by the day girls. Napkins and tablecloths were white damask - we had to supply our own serviette rings - plates had to be cleared - no point in saying you didn't like something! We took turns in joining the Headmistress at the top table - a rather terrifying experience. Manners and social conduct were all-important.

Afternoon lessons finished at 3 pm when, until 5 pm, we had compulsory sports and physical activities - unless we had special lessons - piano, painting, speech. At 5 we were allowed to return to our dormitories to shower and dress for dinner - no jewelry except a wrist watch allowed, hair to be in plaits or no longer than collar level. Following our meal was chapel then prep - prep time dependent on class level. Other evening activities included craft work, play practice, sewing, music and so on.

Highlights were our social activities involving the Saints boys - tennis parties, and dances to which we girls wore the regulation