



Riviere College

*Rewards of Work and Diligence*

## EDUCATING A GENERATION OF PIONEERING WOMEN THE RIVIERE COLLEGE c1877

The Hughenden has had many lives and is part of the history of Riviere College, which was originally established by Professor and Mrs Goergs circa 1877, in an imposing two-storey turn-of-the-century building with lawned surroundings in Wallis Street Woollahra.

Professor Goergs, who was a Professor of Music, adopted the German motto for his college:

### DES FLEISSES LOHN REWARDS OF WORK AND DILIGENCE

In 1888 the college moved to Esher, a gracious residence on the corner of Nelson and Queen Streets. It was run by the Misses Hall until 1895. In 1890 there was a new Headmistress, Edith Emily Dornwell, Adelaide University's first woman graduate who received First Class Honours in Physics and Physiology.

In 1896 Matilda Meares became Headmistress of Riviere College. Matilda Meares was a woman pioneer graduate of Sydney University (1889). In 1912 the college found its final home at The Hughenden where it was operated until 1920 by the now-married Mrs Mitchell-Meares. Studies included geography, history, English general knowledge, composition, arithmetic, German, painting and music.

Leading Australian women were educated at Riviere College including Lillian De Lissa, a pioneer in early childhood education; Dame Constance D'Arcy, a pioneer of antenatal care for women; and Margaret Estelle Barnes, one of Australia's first female dentists.

Constance D'Arcy, an advocate of women's rights in medicine, university and education, became a distinguished obstetrician and gynaecologist, committed to lowering the maternal mortality rate. She became the first female Deputy Chancellor of the University of Sydney, founder of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation, foundation member of Sancta Sophia College and fought for equal pay for women. She was appointed as Dame of the Order of the British Empire on 3 June 1935 for services to the welfare of children. The pope honoured her with the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1940.

Lillian Daphne de Lissa became an advocate of young children's education and established the Kindergarten Union of South Australia and later the Kindergarten Union of Western Australia. Working with slum children, she saw education as the basis of social reform in Australia and later in Great Britain where, in 1923, she helped found the Nursery School Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The logo of Riviere College is etched in the glass in The Riviere wing of The Hughenden.

