



***On Margaret's own education:***

*Margaret Lyttle in conversation with Gina Levenspiel, 15 June 2012*

*TRANSCRIPT...*

ML: You see, when I was a child we were poor we didn't have any parents so we went all over the place.

GL: Yes. And then you went to Sandringham to live with your grandmother.

ML: Oh yes that's where she lived.

GL: That's where she was and ...

ML: That's where we lived as children.

GL: Yes that's right. And then you came in to live with Greta near the school.

ML: Aunty Greta.

GL: Aunty Greta. But not at Preshil, down the road, that's where she started [at 406 Barkers Road].

ML: Yes. Greta [long 'e'] we called her.

GL: And did you remember going to St Andrew's where Greta was the director?

ML: There was Rosbercon, which was a progressive school run by the Tisdalls in those days.

GL: Then St Andrew's, then St Michael's.

ML: Yes. I went to St Michael's. The others [siblings Pat, Tom] didn't. I taught at St Michael's.

GL: That's right. Didn't you train under Dorothy Ross at St Michael's?

ML: That's right. DJ.

GL: DJ Ross? How was she? Can you remember her?

ML: Oh yes very well.

GL: You can?

ML: She was very vital masculine sort of woman.

GL: Really. A masculine sort of woman. I wonder what that means. A lot of energy?

ML: Right in the middle!

GL: Uh huh. Like Napoleon? [laughter] I read once that you said that when she taught you that

she really made the chalk and dust fly.

ML: The trouble was that she grew up out of real poverty.

GL: Right.

ML: So she had write in amongst all the rubbish on the other space.

GL: Right. So she was resourceful.

ML: She was what?

GL: Resourceful.

ML: Yes she was.

GL: Well you don't need much to teach.

ML: You don't.

GL: What did you think of this Dalton Plan that the Tisdall's had?

ML: I beg your pardon?

GL: The Dalton Plan that the Tisdall women used. What did you think of that?

ML: Well I thought that was very good when I was a child.

GL: Because you could follow your own interest?

ML: Yes. Well I went to a school called St Michael's.

GL: Yes.

ML: And you needed time to be in quarters you see. And I used to hide away and do it. [laughter] I can't remember now. Anyway we were very happy there at St Michael's.

GL: Well. What I read which I found very interesting was that when your Aunt Greta, when she developed her methodology, that the [whole] school, the gardens, the buildings, all of those things were important for the child to learn.

ML: They were.

GL: So they became a set of tools.

ML: Yes they all became part of the place.