

Boarders' Buzz

St Philip's College Girls' Boarding

Volume 12 Issue 2, Term 2 2011

Changing of the guard!



Having fun at Emily Gap

One of the exciting things about running a boarding house is the fact that no one can predict what the Term will bring and this one certainly had a big surprise in store: the departure of Jan Gaffney, our Matron and live in mum.

Jan had lived as a Boarding 'mum' at St Philip's College for five years, and for the last four of these she had also been our boarding matron. While her intention had always been to move to Sydney in the long term, it happened far more quickly than she imagined. It was really a case of being in the right place at the right time and we all wish her the very best in her new job.

Over the years she was here, Jan gave one hundred per cent commitment to the girls and nothing was too much trouble. She worked tirelessly with care and compassion and made a tremendous contribution to our Boarding community. I

would also like to thank her for all the support she gave to me, personally, over the years: she was a wonderful colleague and a valued friend.

But life goes on and our new Boarding 'mum' Libby and her son, Xavier, have settled in very well. Although they have only been with us a few weeks it's hard to remember life without them and they are really fun to have around.

Charmaine, our new Matron, started work just two

weeks before the end of term and has soon settled into the job. Charmaine lives with her husband Richard, has a grown up son and daughter and is also a foster carer. She has left Alice Springs Hospital after more than 22 years of service and is a very experienced nurse, eminently suited for the position of Matron.

Charmaine has settled in to the job very quickly and is clearly the sort of person who will put the interests of the boarders before anything else.

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Charmaine, our new matron



Jan's farewell

News in brief

Welcome to:

- Libby and Xavier our new live-in mum and her son
- Charmaine, our new Matron

Goodbye to:

- Jan, our much loved Matron

Hello and goodbye to:

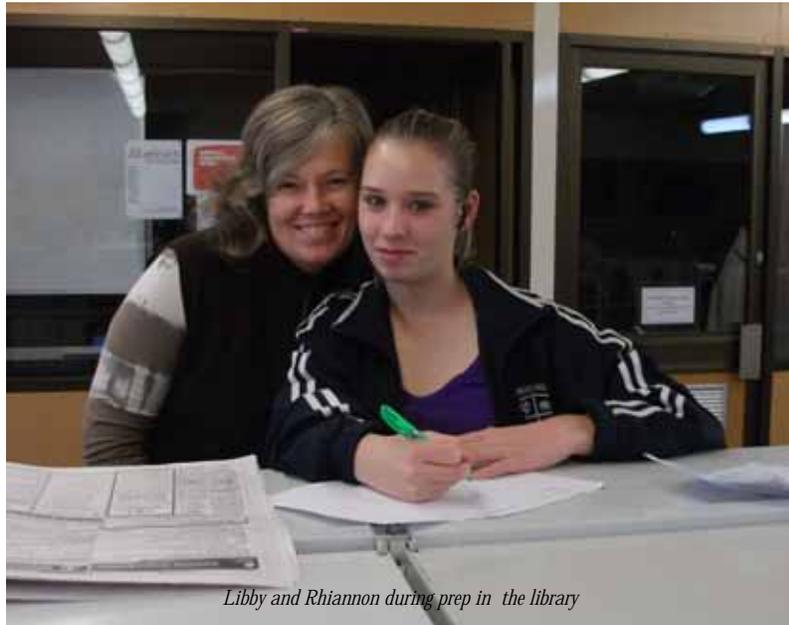
- Meredith and Meher our two exchange students

Congratulations to:

- Alexia for being picked to play soccer for NT in Adelaide
- Jess on being picked to play AFL for NT in Canberra
- Martha for being Age Champion at the Athletics Carnival
- Donal for breaking the school high jump record
- Mikaela and Hannah on their Drama performances
- Caelli on her Year 11 Dance performance
- Alicka for Most Blue Marks and Rhiannon for Most Smileys

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Meet Libby—our new mum!



Libby and Rhiannon during prep in the library

Where were you born?

Moree – North western NSW border

Where did you come from before Alice Springs?

Canberra

How long have you lived in Alice Springs?

3 Years

What sort of jobs have you done in the past?

Television, event management and being a mum

What type of job do you do now?

I work in a medical student program – bringing medical students from all around Australia and placing them in remote clinics in NT, WA and SA.

How many children do you have?

One son, Xavier – 10 years old.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Camping, holidays, movies, wearable arts, sewing and being out doors

Have you travelled? If yes where have you been?

Yes, Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, most of Europe and every Australian state.

Where would you go if you had to chose anywhere in the world?

India and Egypt

What type of music do you like?

Everything - I love music

What's your favourite film

'Breakfast at Tiffany's' and 'The

Social Network'

What is your favourite food?

Anything with Chocolate on it

What is your favourite drink?

Mocktails (without alcohol)

If you don't mind me asking, how old are you?

43

What was the best day of your life?

The day Xavier was born

Have you ever witnessed a famous moment in history?

Front row in Parliament House when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd apologised to the Stolen Generation

Do you like animals? Which ones?

I'm allergic to many animals – cats, dogs and horses. My favourite animals are human beings!

Were you a boarder when you were in school? If so, what was it like?

I was a weekly boarder in Grades 11 and 12. I went home for the weekends.

How do you like life in the Boarding House, so far? Is it what you expected?

Great, better than I expected.

Q20. What is it like being a mother?

Do you like it?

Fantastic, yes, very challenging. Every day is different, creative, and very rewarding.

Rhiannon Wilson and Kelly Denaro

Bye from Jan

Thank you to you all for those lovely good wishes; it is an exciting yet quite sad time when it comes to moving on.

St Philip's College has been a wonderful and fulfilling part of my life; I have had a very special time with all in Girls' Boarding over these past five yrs.

We have had many fun times and adventures together, mainly though, it's the day to day sharing and caring for each other that gives ones heart the fondest memories.

I have had the privilege to see lovely young girls arrive and then see their transformation into confident young women.

My trip to Sydney from Alice Springs went smoothly, but was very cold.

I have settled into my new place well and it has been wonderful catching up with my family.

Margaret, thank you for all your guidance and help over the years. I will be back visiting in Alice and would like to be able to drop in and see you all again.

Good luck and love to you all and many thanks again for your good humour, practical jokes and the effort that you all put into being all you can be.

Jan Gaffney



Jan at Standley Chasm

Goodbye Meredith

I'm an exchange student from Canada and for the duration of my time here, the Boarding House has most generously provided a place for me to stay.

But, it's proven to be a lot more than just a 'Boarding House'. Since the moment I arrived, I have felt welcome, with everyone introducing themselves and happy to answer any of my questions when I was unsure of the routine and rules, and reassuring me that the siren on my first day was only for dinner!

I have had the most incredible time at St. Philips and I think a lot of it has been while staying in Boarding. Because of it, I have made some amazing friends that I otherwise would not have even met.

I wanted to thank all the boarding staff, especially Stevo, for everything they have done for me. And I also want to thank the incredible friends I have



Not all Meredith's new friends were human!

made here.

Girls, know you all have a place to stay if you're ever in my neck of the woods. I'll never forget you guys!

Meredith Fraser

Red Shield

Every year the Girl's Boarding House goes around town door knocking for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal. We cover the Eastside area.

This year the whole Boarding House went out one Saturday morning in May. It took about two hours but it didn't feel like that.

Kelly and I collected the highest amount of money. We raised \$263.70. Altogether the Boarders collected \$1,539.45. The people were very generous and kind.

It is fun to help the Red Shield Appeal every year. It is a great experience and we always feel so good when we come back. Even if it's a little bit of money every cent counts and we are doing a great job.

Rhiannon Wilson

Quiz Night



The winning team: Martha, Mikaela, Meredith and Cheyenne

On Saturday of week 4, 21 May, those members of the Boarding House who were in, competed in a Quiz Night. There were several sections, organised by both our Heads of Boarding, Stevo and Kris, and these included categories such as Sports, Teachers and Music.

Between the rounds either Stevo or Kris organised an activity for the teams to compete in. These activities were a chance for the more hands on teams to gain some points on the

budding intellectuals.

The hands on games included 'straw craftsmanship', where contestants had to make an alien out of a handful of straws (the team that won this round decorated some of their own members with straws and called them 'extra terrestrial life'!) as well as 'paper plane engineering'.

It was a night of fierce competition, but right from the start it became clear Mikaela, Meredith, Martha and Cheyenne's team 'Razzle Dazzle'



Martha & Stella off collecting money

were going to be a line up to beat.

After some initial trouble with the scorekeeping (led by myself) we found it a thoroughly enjoyable night and all teams left happy and full after snacking on lollies and chips throughout the competition.

It was a great evening and a big thank-you to Stevo and Kris for all their organising!

Donal Sullivan

Christian Community Centre Games Night

The Girl Boarders and some of the Boy Boarders were invited to have a muck up night with the Christian Community Centre Youth Group.

We gazed upon the course full of excitement, but a little scared when we arrived. None of us knew what any of the stuff was for. It ranged from giant blow up hoops to baked beans and flour.

We were soon put into mixed teams. There was a competition to see which teams could come up with the best team name and chant. These chants had to be performed at the start of each activity or it wouldn't count.

First we played human-putting with a blown up beach ball. Then we went on to mini games. Mini games went for one minute each and teams scored points to go into the final score. The mini games included how many whole raw eggs a team member could catch in a container on their head; how many cups we could blow over with a straw and how many cotton buds a team could transfer from one place to another only using noses and some Vaseline. All these games were a lot of fun and built up our team skills for the final race.

The final race was a marathon that each member of the team had to compete in. It started off with riding a skateboard around the roundabout in the car park wearing a giant blow up hoop.

It then went to the next team member who had to roll from one side of the yard to the other in the giant blue



hoop. This person passed it to the next who had to jump into a freezing paddling pool and had to apple bob.

The next person then had to run and jump over obstacles wearing the giant blow up hoop while people were shooting water pistols at them.

The last person was the one who probably had the most fun. They had to run over a tarp covered in a mixture of baked beans and water, while trying to pick up time cards which could either give them more time or take time away from the final score. They did this wearing the giant big blow up hoops while people squirted them with water pistols and covered them with flour.

After they made it through the tarp they had to give the person at the end of the tarp their time cards and run to the finish line. We all had so much fun!

After this though they brought out one more activity, in which two members from every team had to go to the pool. One (the unfortunate one) had to get into the pool and the other had to stand at the side of the pool and direct his team member.

The team member in the pool had to find as many tags as they could in their colour while their eyes were closed. They were given two minutes.

At the end of all this we went inside drenched in water, raw eggs, baked beans and flour, to give out the prizes for the winners of the night, the best song and the most cheerful team.

This was closely followed by hot chocolate and a warm bus ride back to the boarding house.

Caelli Cubillo



Balloons, Skittles, BBQ and Yirara



In recent years, some of our most anticipated and enjoyed Boarding activities have been our interactions with the girls from Yirara College. As Boarders themselves, the Yirara girls are in a similar position to, and come from very similar backgrounds to, most of us.

This Term was our turn to host Yirara in an activity, and we chose to have a barbeque in the quad, followed by some games inside. Before eating, we all participated in an ice-breaker game, involving passing an orange from under the first person in the team's chin, all the way down the line, without using your hands. This was a great laugh, and after we had all become acquainted through some very skilful orange passing and dropping, the footies were brought out, and we had a kick to kick while Martha, Margo, Lucy and Zoe cooked for us.



When the footballers were eventually convinced to put the balls down, we all sat and shared stories of our backgrounds over dinner. Most of the St. Philip's boarders got to know a few girls they hadn't met before, and some even found some long-lost friends, relatives or acquaintances.

Once dinner was out of the way, the real fun began. We kicked the games off with the old crowd-pleaser 'Gaga Ball', which involves a lot of screaming and laughing when it is played by thirty teenage girls. After an encore of Gaga Ball we played 'The Chocolate Game', followed by some team games with straws, skittles, chopsticks and marshmallows, which were most challenging.



Then we separated into our schools, for the Yirara versus St. Philip's war of the balloon-throwers. Of course St. Philip's annihilated the opposition, but our differences were forgotten over another round of 'The Chocolate Game'. Funnily enough, this also involved a lot of screaming and laughing, as did most of the other games, except when we had straws in our mouths.

We finished up the night with a tour of the dorms, and a farewell at the Yirara bus. We would like to thank the Yirara 'Bottom M' dorm girls and Susan for coming over, Stevo for organising the visit, our barbequers, and everyone who participated for a really good night. We look forward to heading over to Yirara again for an activity sometime next semester.

Jess Sullivan



A Sunday afternoon horse ride



Caelli showing her skill

On Sunday 5 June a group of eight girls: Hannah, Jennifer, Caelli, Brooke, Meredith, Meraud, Mikaela and I, plus Crystal, a staff member, went horse riding.

The girls had so much fun riding Milly, Eldo and a black horse.

After getting tested in the arena the girls and the horses went out

on a walk around the property.

Hannah, Brooke and Caelli were good enough to go on the walk without a lead rope, but the rest stayed with our guide on a lead rope.

The trainer took three at a time. In the first group was Hannah, Brooke and Jennifer, who was happy to get off Milly, who wouldn't move until the guide helped.

In the second group there was Caelli, riding Eldo, Meraud riding the black horse and me riding Milly.

In the last group there was Crystal, Mikaela and Meredith.

Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Hanna Ure-Pearce



First time rider Hannah



Hanna, Caelli and Meraud at the stables

Standley Chasm & Simpson's Gap



Hanna enjoying some quiet time

It was one of the coldest Monday's in the whole Term. The Boarding House had agreed to go to Standley Chasm and then go on to Simpson's Gap for a picnic.

Standley Chasm is one of the most amazing tourist attractions in the Alice Springs area.

People enjoyed themselves by taking photos of themselves on rocks and climbing up the chasm to view the earth from up above.

Then after a fun afternoon in the Chasm we drove off to Simpson's Gap, one of the most popular gaps around Alice Springs.

There we had lunch consisting of sandwiches, cordial, fruit and a little snack.

All in all the day was fun and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Many thanks to Jan and Kris for taking us.

Martha Ondeyo



Sheridan, Caelli and Stella waiting for lunch



Jen, Danielle and Louise

**Love people
Use things
- not
vice-versa**

Term in pictures



(continued from front page)

In addition to these two new staff, we have also had a new face in the kitchen. Tracy makes lovely food, but equally important she is extremely kind and helpful and always has a lovely smile for anyone who comes to the kitchen. She has already won a special place in all our hearts!

We really are very lucky to have three such excellent new staff and I hope they will all be with us for many years to come.

As well as all the staffing changes, it has been a busy Term is many other respects too. There have been exams for everyone except Year 12s; camps

for Years 7, 8 and 9; the Eisteddfod, in which many Boarders were involved, and then of course the Athletics Carnival, Senior Play .. the list goes on.

In Boarding we have made use of the new town pool, visited Emily Gap, Standley Chasm and Simpsons



Gap, been ten pin bowling, horse riding and participated in the Alice Springs Running and Walking Club events. We have also enjoyed activities with the Christian Community Centre and the girls from Yirara.

Back on campus we had a quiz night with the boys, went rock climbing, played basketball and European handball.

The girls also put in a great effort to help the Salvation Army with the Red Shield Appeal and spent a Saturday morning in May doing a door knock on Eastside, raising almost \$1500. It was a great effort.



Cheyane enjoying the slide

Boarders due back on Sunday 24 July

Slides and Whirlpools



Umema, Mikaela, Milco, Caelli and Meredith

One Friday evening the Boy and Girl Boarders went to the new town pool.

We went to the pool at 5pm and stayed until 7.30pm.

When we got there we went and got changed.

A lot of people were at the water slides. There were two water slides. One of the slides was red and the other slide was yellow.

After the slides we went to the whirlpool which was

next to the slides. The whirl pool took people around in its currents, which went around a white island.

Then it was time to go.

Every one had fun and some of us wish to go back



Meraud, Kelly and Cheyane

(continued from front page)

- **Hannah on her success at the Eisteddfod**
- **Alexia on her Wearable Arts creation, Umema on her Encouragement Award and Louise on her Highly Commended.**

Good luck to:

- **Cyndy, Kelsey, Stella and Sheridan at Mitagundi**
- **Kelly, who is becoming a day student**

Thanks to:

- **Everyone who has written for the Buzz**

Now though we are all ready for a break.

I wish you and your daughters a wonderful four weeks together and I look forward to seeing all the girls again in July.

Margaret Stevenson

Honour Roll

Most Improved Boarder

Brooke

Contribution to the Boarding House

Mikaela

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2 Rachael

Wk 3 Mikaela

Wk 4 -

Wk 5 Brooke

Wk 6 Kelly

Wk 7 Meredith

Wk 8 Hannah