

Boarders' Buzz

St Philip's College Girls' Boarding

Volume 14 Issue 1 Term 1 2012

Achieving goals—and some!



Visiting Old Timers on Valentine's Day

Over the years the girls and I have periodically talked about our boarding values. They are displayed clearly on our noticeboard and every so often we may decide to change or add to them. There are more of them than there used to be, but there are still some obvious omissions, probably the most notable of which is generosity, because it pleases me to say that our boarding house is an extraordinarily generous community.

I hope you will find time to read Caelli's article about our fundraising efforts at the end of last year. When I put up a notice about *Donation for a Difference* it was only two weeks from the end of term and I didn't really expect a response, but I hadn't counted on Caelli. Not only were the girls generous in terms of time and effort for this, but

they were also generous in terms of money raising to donate gifts to the Kmart Wishing Tree.

This term has started off in the same vein with a number of girls being keen to get more involved in help-

**Boarders due
back on
Sunday
15 April**

ing our local community, visiting old people and such like. We made our usual visit to the residents of Old Timers on Valentine's Day and it was lovely to see how well the girls interacted with their hosts.

Next term we are planning to put on a party for some of the students at Acacia Hill School, which will be

something we have not done before, and we will also take part in the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal as we have done for many years.

One of the values that is included on our list is teamwork and this has seldom been better displayed than it was on the night of our fund raising dinner for multiple sclerosis. The girls did a great job and raised \$2040 in the process (our goal was \$1000).

Fun also features on our list and there has certainly been plenty of that. Last night we had a great night out with our Progressive Dinner, and among other activities this term we have been to the town pool, played Fashion Stakes, held a disco, played plenty of sport, had movies nights, been camel riding – the list goes on.

This term we have been delighted to welcome Liz McKay to our staff as boarding assistant. Liz has exten-

News in brief

Welcome to:

- Liz, our new boarding support assistant

Congratulations to:

- Louise, Rhiannon and Cyndy on being made House Officers
- Everyone who made the fund raising dinner a success
- Jess for being chosen to coach AusKick at the interval of the big AFL match in Alice

Au revoir to:

- Milco who is going to Romania on exchange next term

Goodbye to:

- Taya who goes back to Queensland

Thanks to:

- all the boarders and staff who work so hard to make the boarding house a great place to stay.

sive experience in the area of boarding and that, combined with excellent initiative and a great work ethic, have made her a real asset to the boarding houses even in the short time she has been here.

(continued on back page)

Camel riding



Umema, Milco, Rhonda, Taz, Jen and Don setting off for their camel ride

On 17 March, a group of boarders, Milco, Umema, Natalie, Jennifer, Rhonda and Heleama, to name a few, went camel riding. At 1:45 we assembled on the boarding bus and departed to the camel riding farm. When we arrived, we all scrambled off the bus and went over to gaze at the large camels.

We were then greeted by Marcus Williams, the head of the farm, who led us in pairs to the perching camels. As we slowly and cautiously mounted the camels, they bellowed deeply, as if they were shouting for us to get off! Everybody burst into a fit of giggles and low shouts of fright as the camels stood up, back end first, throwing us forwards, then evening out as their front legs supported the weight. When everyone was on, the camels were hooked up in a straight line and led out of the gates, and down a lonely road. Through an opened gate, we waited until Marcus was on, then we all set off.

We were out in the middle of the wilderness for just under an hour, and the silence was so intense, it was almost sinister, like a thousand eyes were watching and waiting. By the time we got back, everybody was complaining of sore legs from the saddles. Getting off, we all ran to a large field of grass and ripped out generous amounts of grass, feeding it to all of the camels, who happily munched on the juicy grass for the next fifteen minutes.

A little reluctantly, we all climbed onto the boarding bus and departed back to St Philip's, chatting to each other about what our camels did and how much fun we had. For the people who had never ridden a camel before, it was definitely a story to bring home and tell the family.

From all of the boarders (and Marie!) who went on this joyous ride, we thank Stevo and the staff of the camel farm for taking us for such an exciting experience.

Taz Keane

Old Timers

On Valentine's Day, the girls' boarding house went to visit the residents of Old Timers and give them roses and chocolates.

Some of the elderly at Old Timers have no family in Alice Springs so they very rarely get visitors, which we thought shouldn't be happening on a day such as Valentine's Day.

The reactions of some of the men and women were happy, loved and some overwhelmed as it brought back memories from when they were younger.

Helena, Jess, Margo and Umema all performed amazingly, putting a smile on



Annie, our Boarding Prefect, with a new friend

everyone's face and causing some to also sing along.

Doing something as simple as visiting the Old Timers can make you feel good about yourself as you make a difference to someone else. It felt good to know we had made someone happy from something as simple as a smile and a rose.

Georgie McGregor

for about an hour then we were called out just before dinner so we could dry off before eating.

Everyone slapped on sunscreen and some people played with a Frisbee.

We then ate our dinner of potato salad, bread, chicken, salad and fruit.

We would like to thank the cooks for cooking our food and the staff members for taking us to the pool. We all had heaps of fun and hope to do it again next term.

Margo Sullivan

Town pool picnic

Early this term the boarders went to the town pool for a picnic with the boys.

On arrival everyone went straight to the indoor pool. The spa and whirl pool were a big hit and everyone had lots of fun. We were allowed to play in the pools



Louise, Heleama and Stella

SafeTALK

Question no1..



SafeTALK participants receive their certificates from Karen Reval

On Saturday 17 March, a group of nine senior girl boarders plus staff from both girls' and boys' boarding attended a session run by Lifeline.

This course focused on suicide and noticing the signs of someone who might be at risk of taking their own life. We learnt about being alert to the risk of suicide and how to ask someone if they were thinking about suicide.

We watched videos that showed people shrugging off the topic to people who were concerned about them, and how the person concerned could have noticed the signs. Then we watched the same video clips except the person concerned had noticed the signs and asked the person if they were thinking about suicide and telling the person they can talk about it.

We learned what SafeTALK meant: Safe- suicide alertness for everyone, TALK- Tell, Ask, Listen and Keep Safe. After this we got with a partner and practised a scenario between a teacher and student.

We told the person acting as the

suicidal person what signs we as the other person had seen. Then we asked them 'Are you thinking about suicide?' Which is one of the main questions we need to ask when talking to someone who we think is at risk of suicide.

After we finished the session we received our certificates.

The girls boarders and staff would like to thank the staff at Lifeline for giving up their time and organising this course for us.

Umema Curtis

Well sometimes jogging your memory on a weekend isn't such a bad idea. I'm sure my friends Stella Whippy, Margo Sullivan, Lucy Campbell- Brogan, Kate Campbell- Brogan, Natalie Wilson, Georgie McGregor, and Louise Noonan agree with me.

On Saturday 17 March we had our school quiz night that was held in the Minnamurra Hall. Here we got to verse almost the whole of Alice Springs in teams of 8.

There were ten rounds to be played and a table round which was a 10 point bonus.

Of course, being young girls, it was quite a challenge to go up against grown ups who have seen it all and possibly know it all. But we all did a fantastic job and emerged last with 31 points out of 110 compared to the winning team's 88 points out of 110. Not such a bad effort hey?

Overall it was fantastic, retaining our wooden spoon for the third year in a row and greatly looking forward to next year's competition. Hopefully we might emerge in the top ten.

Martha Ondeyo



Our quiz night team

mixed and some weren't, so I decided to make it fair by rearranging people.

There were prizes for the winning team which were movie vouchers. The winning team was Kaea, Stella and myself. The team we played against in the final was Cheyane, Dean and Brooke.

There were also prizes for best female and male players. For the girls it was Cheyane and I and for the male it was Izzy and

Dean. The night went really well and everyone had fun.

Louise Noonan

Basketball

The weekend kicked off with a basketball game on a Friday night. We had to be in a team of three but it had to be a mixed team with at least one boy in a team. There were 8 teams of 3 and half of them were



Heleama & Stella fight for the ball

Our Big Dinner Party for multiple sclerosis....



Saturday March 10 was one of the biggest nights in our boarding year, when the girls cooked dinner for our guests. This was the first year we had made it into a fund raising dinner and catering for 76 people meant the pressure was really on.

Friday night all the preparation was done and the kitchen was a hive of activity. Jess took responsibility for the cheesecake this year and she had big shoes to fill (her sisters!). Sunette was our cheesecake maker in training for next year and watched Jess's every move. They made a great team and at the end of the night – and I mean the very end – 11:45pm four trays of perfect cheesecake went into the cool room.



Meanwhile there were lots of other activities taking place. Cyndy, ably assisted by Georgie and Sheridan, was busy making pumpkin and leek soup (thanks to Crystal for the recipe) Annie was marinating the steak, and Zoe was starting work peeling a huge pile of veggies, assisted by Helena, Hanna, Natalie, Rhonda and Annie. It was good to go to bed knowing a lot of the work had been completed.

Saturday was a busy day again of course with appetisers to be prepared, garlic bread and punch to be made, veggie and steak to be cooked and the cheesecake to be cut up and



.....raises over \$2000



decorated. Jess's presentation was so meticulous that an hour or so before the guests arrived she'd only finished half the plates, but Cyndy came to the rescue and all was done in time and it looked fantastic.

The girls looked lovely and they were great hosts. The tables looked superb, thanks to Milco and Umema who also did an excellent presentation about MS.

The food was delicious. Well done to our cooks on the night Annie, Cyndy and Zoe. Margo, Jess and Helena sang for our guests and Umema played the violin. Unfortunately the guests missed out on Helena playing the keyboard, because her hands were blistered from peeling so many veggies the night before!

The girls received lots of positive feedback and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The clean up crew did a great job and by 10:30 the kitchen was back to normal and everyone was back in the dorm – a record!

The event raised over \$2000 for multiple sclerosis and it was a great effort by a group of awesome young people – and I'm very proud of them for their positive attitude and hard work.

Margaret Stevenson



CCC Games

In week three we went to the Christian Community Centre for a games night. Before we left the boarding house we got prepared. Some of us decided to wear old clothes so that we wouldn't get our other clothes in a mess.

We went to the bus around 6:15pm and drove to the church and got there around twenty past 6. As soon we got there we played a game of throw up the soccer ball for a few minutes until everyone got there.

The first thing that happened was we got separated into teams of about 12. It was fun having different people to talk to.

Then the games started. The games included a game where we had to eat different kinds of food like spaghetti with meatballs, something in a Hungry Jacks cup which looked bad and a watermelon all in a few minutes; a dice game where your teammate had to stack up to 6 dice on a wooden stick in your mouth and you had to make sure you were stable; a



Georgie & Helena concentrating

pencil game where you had to flip at the back of your hand and catch at the same time and a game where we had to throw the ping pong balls into a cup. Another game was where we had to pop balloons and see which one had shaving cream in it. Before we left the hosts threw water balloons at us.

When we got back to the boarding everyone wanted to have a shower and just go to bed and start again the next day.

Sunette Mndebele

Cows, rabbits, fruit trees and a bike!



Caelli, Dippy, Jess, Umema and Georgie

Two weeks before the end of Term 4 2011 the girls at the boarding house all chipped in together to raise money for those in need at Christmas time. It started off with a goal to achieve enough money to send a cow to a needy family in a third world country through *Donations for a Difference*.

We asked teachers and people around the school and boarding environment about bob a jobs. These included gardening, cleaning and car washing.

The goal we set was a long way off, but we decided to push on, plowing away at

our goal bit by bit.

When we realized we had reached our goal we were all filled with joy and were even more motivated to raise more money, and with all the other bob a jobs we had lined up we were still ready to go even though there were only six girls in the boarding house in the last week.

After another long weekend of plowing through weeds and scrubbing floors, we decided to call it a day and counted all the money raised.

In the end we raised enough money to send a cow, 5 fruit trees, some rabbits and a bike all to separate families in third world countries.

Caelli Cubillo

Editor's note: What Caelli hasn't said in this article is that it was her determination that made this happen. Well done Caelli!

Dinner out!

On Saturday 24 March the girls went on their Progressive Dinner.

For those who don't know what this is, it is when we go to different people's houses for different courses. For instance we go for an entree at one house, soup at another, main at another and dessert at another.

Well for an entree we went to Mr and Mrs Leesong's house and we had some really good homemade lemon



In high spirits on the dinner

drink and some quiche. When we had all finished eating we went inside to play a game which drove all of us insane because none of us got the point of the game so no one won.

Next we went to Mrs K's house for some amazing pumpkin soup. When we first stepped foot in Mrs K's Garden we all were like wow! It was amazing with lots of places to sit, birds and fish everywhere and the clearest pool I have ever seen.

When we had all finished the soup we played pass the parcel which ended up having little Easter eggs in each layer and a carton of them to be won in the middle. Stella was so happy to win the carton of Easter eggs that she couldn't stop laughing.

For the main course we went to Mrs Shubert's house for some pizza and salad. When we had finished the pizza we played charades which was sooooo much fun. We all had a great time and congratulations to the winners: Heleama, Rhonda, Taz, Hanna, Martha, and Alicka in their team *I'm Cold* who won a kilo of mini Easter eggs.

(continued on back page)

Term in pictures



First impressions

My first impression on moving from Tennant Creek was nothing special and my opinion on changing schools was 'Here we go again.' But living with people I didn't even know, put me on edge. Sure I had my best mate from Tennant Creek as a roommate but she wasn't in my year.



Helena loves her music

One of my old buds was in most of my classes so I was pretty relieved that I wouldn't be a complete newbie. Even though on the outside I didn't show anything but smiles and laughter, on the inside I was a wreck.

In a week though, I settled down pretty quickly, but it

wasn't until my third week that I showed my true colours. I got into everything so I was always doing something and if not I was either reading comics or playing outside, preferably the latter.

Although I have a few bad habits like 3 hour



Rhonda peeling veggies with Nat and Cyndy for the MS dinner

Hello, my name is Rhonda Uzzell. I'm twelve years old and this is my first year at St Philip's College.

My sister goes to this school. Her name is Cyndy. She's in Year 11, so some of you might know her.

My first impression when I came to St. Philip's was 'Oh my goodness', because I thought I would get lost in this big school.

On my first day at school it was great because I did lots of great new things and made lots of friends.

When it was recess and lunch some of Cyndy's friends came up to me and said hello. That kind of made me happy because I was starting to know some of the people and they were starting to know me.

At the boarding house it's real fun because you get to do lots of things and never gets bored even at school.

Everyone at the girls' boarding house was really nice, kind and funny when I first came.

(continued from front page)

I really do feel blessed to be supported by excellent residential, day and evening staff and you can rest assured that your daughters are in excellent hands.

Only our end of term party to go now and then we can all enjoy a well earned holiday! Enjoy your time with your daughters at home.

Margaret Stevenson

showers and *always* being late, I always seemed to get away with it. Stevo says it's because of my smile and joyful attitude.

What I've enjoyed most about my first term here is that there is so much to do. I am doing loads of different things, but I still want to fit in more.

I've really enjoyed playing lots of sport like AFL, rock wall and fitness sessions with Allen, but I always try to leave time to play music.

I still don't like the uniform. I'm seriously considering going rebel and start going to school in civvies or the sports uniform!

Helena Dawson

When I started to know the girls and the boys I started to feel like I'd been here for a long time. When you are just standing there and don't know what to do, one of girls just tells you to come and play with them.

If you don't know where everything is the girls or boys always help you.

I've been having lots of fun at the boarding house and at school. So that's my first impression when I came to St Philip's.

Rhonda Uzzell

(continued from page 6)

Last we went to Mrs Taylor's House for dessert which consisted of lots of little cakes like: chocolate pie, black forest cake, strawberry and cream cake, sorbet cake, and lots of fruit.



The perfect waiter!

When we had finished eating 4 of us (Ronda, Hanna, Zoe and Louise N) had the guts to face the freezing temperatures of the pool, but still had a great time.

Hanna Ure-Pearce

Honour Roll

Most Improved Boarder

Sheridan

Contribution to the Boarding House

Jess

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2 Jess and Annie

Wk 3 Helena

Wk 4 Alicka

Wk 5 Umema

Wk 6 Kirsten

Wk 7 Zoe

Wk 8 Sunette