

Boarders' Buzz

St Philip's College Girls' Boarding

Volume 15 Issue 4 Term 4 2012

Time for goodbyes



Caelli, Annie, Jess and Rachael out for their farewell dinner

It's a long time since we have had to say goodbye to four Year 12 boarders who have all been in boarding for either five or six years and it's quite a wrench. Annie, Jess, Caelli and Rachael have been such an important part of our community for so long it will seem strange not to see them return next year, and I dare say that when it comes to school starting next year it will seem strange to them too.

I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the boarding community over those years and thank them for the difference they have made: whether it is the Bentley Trophy, the annual *Donations for a Difference* work or the new boarding flag and memories of succulent marinated steak!

I wish them all the very best for the future and hope

they will keep in touch.

Life goes on and we have an exceptionally hard working new Boarding Captain in Rhiannon. She has achieved most of her Term 4 goals and has already, with help from lots of the boarders, tackled the big project of improving the front of the boarding house. It looks a million dollars! Well done to them all and what a bonus that it also earned us money for *Donations with a Difference*.

Earning money to buy gifts for those less fortunate has been a focus this term and I am pleased to say that, with only two or three exceptions, the girls have all been involved. We have done work around the school, at teachers' houses and of course for ourselves and it has left everyone feeling good about themselves and with real pride

in what they have achieved.

There's been time to play too: swimming, games with the boys, movies, ten pin bowling and our annual Halloween excursion and Christmas party.

We've said good bye to staff member Jen, though it doesn't seem as if she has left as she is still at the school, and we've welcomed two dynamic young staff in Rachel and Louise, who both work in the day school and who will both be doing regular duties next year.

We have been without a full time matron this term as Liz left at the end of Term 3, but the gap has been ably filled by Jean Thurgood - a name that will be familiar to many long standing parents. Jean seems to have thoroughly enjoyed coming out of retirement and it has been a joy to have her involved with boarding again.

Many thanks to Jean and the rest of our awesome staff: boarding, kitchen, cleaning, maintenance, IT - so many people play an important, but often unsung role in the care of your daughters.

I wish them and you and your daughters a wonderful holiday and a very happy 2013.

News in brief

Hello and goodbye to:

- Sarah, our awesome exchange student from Zambia

Good luck and goodbye to:

- Our Year 12s Annie, Jess, Rachael, Caelli, Heleama
- Milco, Zoe and Alicka who are also leaving

Congratulations to:

- Margo and Zoe who were awarded their half football colours
- Lucy who was Best and Fairest for Bentley Bombers for 2012
- Jess who was awarded her full football colours
- Kelsey and Helena who were awarded their House colours
- Louise and Caelli who both won Art Endeavour awards
- Hanna, Rhonda, Brooke and Kirsten for winning Flynn House awards

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Goodbye from our Year 12s....



Jess, Cassie, Annie and Rachael

Jess

Five years ago I started one of the most important journeys of my life here at St Philip's. I couldn't believe my luck at suddenly going from living in a community of 200 to attending a school with three times that many students!

I only had to share a room with one other person, it was only a five minute walk to town, rather than a one hour drive, and after being the only year seven in my primary school I had a peer group of nearly one hundred other day students and 50 boarders.

Once I recovered from my first, sudden bout of homesickness (I missed out on chocolate pudding for dessert one night, rang Mum up bawling about how much I wanted to come home and cried myself to sleep), I realised that boarding school is not about what you miss out on at home, but all the opportunities that are available to you, if you have the courage and support to leave your home to chase them.

Over the last five years, girls' boarding has given me the

chance to learn about the importance of giving of yourself to others, through Stevo's compassion and encouragement of all forms of community service.

I have been able to learn to play the guitar, gained confidence from speaking and performing at boarding functions and, one Friday afternoon, our 2008 boarding captain, Danica Kalinic, introduced me to the love of my life. AFL and I have been inseparable since that very first Bentley Bombers training session, and through the unfaltering endorsement and assistance of my parents and boarding mothers I have taken what was once a crazy dream much



Jess arriving at the Farewell dinner with Andrew

further than I could have hoped (and probably further than my mother thought was good for me at times).

I have made so many close friendships with people from all over the Territory, Australia and the world in boarding, and each of these friends have enriched my life in some way. How blessed are we, as boarders, to be exposed to such a diverse range of people. There is certainly no faster way of developing 'people skills'.

I have loved my time in boarding so very much, and it has left me well equipped to handle the next stage of my life as I move on next year.

I would like to sincerely thank all the incredible, vibrant and understanding

If somebody believes in you and you believe in your dream, it can happen

boarding staff for everything you have done for me; Stevo especially, for sharing my dreams, and giving me the privilege of sharing hers, teaching me about truly contributing to others' lives and for having just the right amount of crazy; and all my sister-girls. You will always have a place in my heart, everyone from my baby juniors to the old veterans who have walked my journey with me.

To you girls I just want to say, that boarding is a gift. Someone sent you there because they loved you too much to keep you close to them and watch your dreams be limited by where you lived. Never take that for granted.

..... Good luck in the future

Annie

Wow! Six years have gone so fast. I must say that living in a boarding house with so many girls and for such a long period of time has been an amazing adventure, but along with the good came the bad.

I started my time here in 2007 and I have finished in 2012. Year 7 was one of the hardest years in my life. Making friends was a little bit of a challenge for me as I was used to being in a class room by myself and my sister.

The best thing about the boarding house was they always had events planned on the weekend, which made me not think of home so much, and they were activities I enjoyed.

I will never forget all the things the boarders do for the community, going to the Old Timers, doing the Red Shield Appeal door knock and many more activities.

Caelli

St Philip's College Girls' Boarding House, where to begin?

I first came to St Philip's as a boarder in 2008. This was a very hard time for me. I was having a lot of trouble regarding my family and St Philip's offered me refuge.

I can't even begin to explain how hard it was to move from home to the boarding house. Although the girls were very friendly and Stevo welcomed me with open arms it didn't feel the same.

It probably wasn't until late Year 9 or early Year 10 that St Philip's went from a boarding house to a home. I began to think of the boarders and staff as family. I put my heart, soul and trust into this boarding house. The girls here are all amazing, but the person who has played the biggest role in my life is Stevo.

My favourite part was always going camping, especially the trip we did this year. Everyone was calm and everyone helped out with the work. I'm pretty sure the marinated meat I made, the girls will miss.

I know I have left boarding in good hands and I wish the next boarding house captain all the best. I know she will do a great job, and the girls will all ways help her out.

My goal from Year 7 was to be boarding house captain, and this year my goal was given to me. This year I have made a good contribution and hope that in the future when I visit there will be more traditions made by future leaders.

There are so many people I must thank: all the staff members Amanda, Marie, Libby, Jen, Rachel and Crystal. Without them I don't think I would have been able to get through the time that I was in the big house. I will miss their jokes and also their ways of cheering up all the girls made everyone feel like they were home.

To Ketut and the other cooks, thanks for cooking all those meals for me over the past six years.

Last but not least Stevo, my second mother. She has been the biggest help to me over the past six years.

I must say there were times when I was upset and down, and after having a chat she lifted me back up and I was on my path again. She helped me out so much this year when I held the roll of Girls Boarding Captain. Without her I wouldn't have made it to where I am now.

Thank you so much it has been a great six years. I will never forget any of the girls and I will be back in the future for sure.



Annie receiving her gift from Chris Tudor



Caelli arriving with friend Minon

She stuck with me through the ups and downs. In Year 12 she was constantly harassing me to go to the art rooms or to go meet with my history teacher, but without this 'encouragement' I probably wouldn't be where I am today.

**Boarders
return
Year 12
Mon 28 Jan
Year 7
Tues 29 Jan
Year 8-11
Wed 30 Jan**

Boarders' Christmas Party



On Friday 16 November the girl and boy boarders had their annual Christmas party. There were nearly one hundred people there, including staff and the parents of the Year 12s.

The whole party was a success and every one looked amazing, even Stevo and Kris.

The food was amazing too, thanks to the kitchen staff.

But the best part of the night was the entertainment. Helena, Margo, Jess and Colin all sang and then there was a skit with Umema, Rhiannon, Margo, Kelsey, Kris and Stevo.

It was especially funny seeing Stevo dress up as Caelli and Kris dress up as Stevo.

The whole party was amazing and I hope I'm here next year to do it again.

Jennifer Weston



Trick or Treating on Halloween

On 31 October some of the girls wore their scariest outfits to go Trick or Treating.

We all had different kinds of costumes this year, ranging from Wonder Woman, Jennifer, to a one third ghost, one third Freddie Kruger and one third devil/demon, Kate.



We had a wonderful night going around to teachers' houses.

First we went to Marie one of our boarding parents, then to Louise Braunack, and Sheree Fickling's where Will was waiting in the bushes to leap out at us.

He then joined us afterwards when we went to Leslie Tilbrook's, Kate Anderson's, Lyn Tieck's and finally Mrs Sandy Crogan's.

We had so much fun playing games, eating wonderful food and just generally having fun.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible this year. It was amazing. I would also like to thank the girls that came: Jennifer, Kate, Lyarni, Kirsten, Brooke, Louise, Rhonda, Paige, Sarah, Nat, and Meraud. Your costumes were really creative and cool this year. Good job.

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- Margo for winning the Spirit of Griffiths award
- Jess who gained Honors, won the Biology award, Year 12 Effort and Determination, Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award and the Brad Morris Award
- Kirsten for winning the Colin Gillmore Award
- Kate for winning the **Chief Minister's** Award for Literacy
- Umema for gaining the highest scores in violin and guitar

Finally I would like to thank Rhiannon for helping Stevo organize the evening and William for being a good sport and taking part.

Our visitor from Zambia



I can't begin to think how different everything is going to be when I go back to school and how much I'm going to miss St Philip's College.

The people I've met and moments I've had are truly unforgettable. It's been such a blast staying in the girls' boarding house.

I came in as a stranger and by the end of the first day I had become family.

During the first week I was shocked that no one did any sport, but by Week 2 I had got involved in most sports in and out of Saints, which was a real help in making more friends.

I'll always remember the "Stevo knock" which consists of 3 knocks and then either her saying swimming, running, soccer or cricket. I still got up even though I knew that I was going to be so stiff with Stevo's pace running up Anzac Hill.

Hanna Ure-Peace

The trips we went on with Tanner and Michelle were amazing. I got to see the town of Alice and then the most beautiful canyons and rocks; Uluru, Kings Canyon and Kata Tjuta.

I'll be leaving saints with so many awesome memories, but I hope to be back and visit. You can't get rid of Africans that easily. A special thank-you to Stevo, Marie, Libby, Chris, Nick, Tanner, Michelle and Mrs Pollitt who kept an eye on me and made my exchange so fantastic.xxx

Sarah Wilken

Honour Roll

Contribution

Rhonda

Prep

Cyndy

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2 Martha

Wk 3 Stella

Wk 4 Caelli

Wk 5 Hanna

Wk 6 Martha

Wk 7 Rhonda