News in brief

Hello and goodbye to:
- Carolin, our awesome exchange student from Germany

Congratulations to:
- Rhonda for most Blue marks, Kirsten for a Perfect Diary.
- Martha for winning the Prep award
- Rhonda and Margo for winning most Smiley
- Sunette on becoming a house officer
- Cyndy for being sponsored by Rotary to attend the Rypen Youth Leadership Camp in Adelaide this holiday.
- Kelsey, Umema, Rhonda, Brooke and Kirsten on having perfect bedrooms all term

Walking in her shoes

Like every term, this one has had its ups and downs, but there have been plenty of memorable moments. Last night we held our end of term party and it is always good to finish the term with the sound of laughter ringing in our ears.

As well as our serious awards we also have funny ones which highlight our collective insanity! Every term I wonder what will happen if nobody does anything funny next term, but I don't really think there is any danger of that ever happening!

Our principle fund raising activity this term has been the Walk in her Shoes Challenge run by Care Australia. You can read more about it in Mikey's article inside, but I would just like to congratulate those boarders, staff and their families who participated. Currently we have just under $3,000 but we are hoping that more money will come in now the walk is over and contributions can be made on the website throughout the holiday, if you still wish to do so. Our team page can be reached via the address below and from there you can go to the website of any of our team members to donate through them.

Well done to Marie and Mikey who at this point are our leading staff and boarding fund raisers.

Helping those less fortunate and contributing in other ways to the community plays an important part in our girls' boarding culture. While helping others is important, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the boarders who help others actually benefit themselves from a more positive outlook, and improved self esteem and often when former boarders contact me later in life their most treasured memories often revolve around the community service they did while in boarding. The boarders also went to visit Olds Timers this term and thanks to Paige for her article about this.

Next term we will be holding our annual fundraising dinner to raise money for sewing machines for the (continued on back page)

(continued from front page)

If you would like to donate please go to https://walkinhershoes2013.everydayhero.com/au/the-alice-wanderers
When I came to Alice Springs I didn’t know anything about it, only that it is a small town in the middle of Australia. I couldn’t imagine what it would look like.

When I got off the plane there was suddenly huge heat coming at me. Then we drove to school and I was really shocked. It was so different to home; there was nothing similar. But I started to like it really soon.

I loved my exchange here and really would like to stay longer. I had so many wonderful experiences here.

When I first arrived I was very shy and thought no one would like me, but everybody was really nice to me, so I felt very welcome soon. I remember the second night, we were all outside the boarding house and I was standing alone in a corner, but then Stella and Sunette came to me and took me with them and suddenly I wasn’t alone anymore.

I also had some problems understanding people in the beginning, because I had never heard an Australian talking before and everyone was talking very fast and it sounded to me like blablabla. I asked them to repeat it and there was this blablabla again so they had to repeat it again and what I understood then was something like blablabla. So I just made a friendly face at them and nodded. So some people started to think weird things of me, because I probably said yes to everything.

I also remember the nights when the girls tried to teach me the Northern Territory dance style. I think I am probably a hopeless case, but I also improved, or just every night we were just sitting together in rec room watching TV, listening to music or were just talking and laughing a lot.

The school gave me the opportunity to go on a lot of nice trips, for example on a camping trip to Uluru.

The first day we spent on the road and walking around the rock together with at least a million flies. After that we were watching the sunset and having dinner in front of Uluru. Then came the first night. I knew that the thing we were going to sleep in was called a swag, but I actually had no idea what it was. I found out that it was a big sleeping bag protecting us from rain, but from nothing else.

This night I also found out that there are a lot of dangerous and poisonous animals in Australia for example redback spiders, snakes and scorpions. The last one I was delighted to find in the bathroom next to my swag, so I was really terrified about sleeping in this swag, because maybe this really friendly scorpion would join me in my sleeping bag, while I was sleeping.

But when I laid down and saw this amazing sky with the stars, my fear was forgotten soon and obviously I survived the night.

We got up at 4.30 am to watch the sunrise at Uluru. After that we walked through the Olgas and then drove to Kings Canyon. The next day we watched the sunrise from the top of the Canyon and then walked through it. When I came back to boarding I was tired, but really happy about the wonderful experience I will never forget.

We also went on a hot air ballooning trip what was really nice and I got to see a lot of stuff around Alice Springs. We also went to Yipirinya School for community service. Working with the kids was a unique and unforgettable experience.

I am so happy and thankful that all these opportunities were given to me. Thank you to everyone who made my exchange such a wonderful and unforgettable experience. Special thanks to Stevo and the whole boarding staff, Mrs Pollitt and Tanner and, of course, to all the girls at the boarding house. I’m going to miss everyone and everything here.

Carolin Kraemer
Valentine’s at Old Timers

On Valentine’s Day some of the girl boarders went to Old Timers. The girls had roses for the ladies and chocolates for the men.

It was very nice to spend some time with the old people, but some of the girls got upset because the old people were just too cute and lovely to talk to and reminded them of their grandparents.

The girls sang songs to the old people and some of the old people got up and told the girls stories.

After we spent time at Old Timers, Cyndy told us a Valentine’s story on the bus as we went back to the boarding house.

Paige Jasmine Morris

Make a change, with a single step

This term 22 boarders and staff joined a challenge called Walk In Her Shoes.

We had to walk over 10,000 steps a day for a week to raise money for women and young girls overseas who walk miles and miles every day just to fetch clean drinking water.

By the end of term we had raised nearly $3000 dollars and sent it away to Care Australia.

Last Monday a group of the girl boarders and a young boy boarder went for a walk to the Telegraph Station after school to increase their steps.

On Tuesday the girls and boys went to the oval to run around to collect more steps.

On Wednesday some of the girls and boys went to town, for a walk to take more steps. The aim was to beat our record and take as many steps as we could.

The girls, Xavier (Libby’s son) and staff had an amazing time doing this event and everybody felt proud of themselves because of what we did in this event because we know that they are doing a really good thing.

Mikeely Fraser

Friendly fun

The girl boarders always enjoy our events with the Desert Life Church. (formerly known as CCC).

Each term we usually do at least one event, but this term we have had two: a games night at St Philip’s and a concert with Zeek Power at the church.

We had an amazing night at the St Philip’s stadium. We played all kinds of games to start with. We had three courts going, one of dodge ball; one of free basketball and on the last court there was a game of soccer, where DLC smashed the St Philip’s boarders.

After that there were two huge games of capture the flag, the boarders versus DLC. In the end we were one all.

The last event for the night was a marvellous BBQ and salad.

Hanna Ure-Pearce

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Mikeely Fraser
A boarding house disco took place on Saturday 16 March. The theme of the disco was Celebrities!
Many different kinds of celebrities turned up, from rugby players, singers, actors to soccer players.
Beyonce, Tita Ora and Jonathan Thurston even had a red ‘carpet’ to enter on.
The night turned out great. We had a lot of fun, mini games, music and fantastic prizes.
Best dressed were Natalie and Izzy.
Best dancers were Helena and Colin.
The limbo was won by William and Mikeely and Kate won Knights, Mounts and Cavaliers.
Thanks to the crew: of Rikki, Helena, Margo, Lucy, Stella and the rest of the girls, who put together a groovy little set up.
We’re looking forward to the next one!
Rikki Morris
Term in pictures
Sunrise Children’s Villages in Cambodia and also helping the Salvation Army with their Red Shield Appeal, something we have done each year for more than a decade.

We’ve had lots of time for fun ourselves too. We’ve been to the town pool, played beach volleyball, been to a concert at the Desert Life Church, played games in the stadium, had BBQs, played Fashion Stakes (one of our favourite home grown games) played Just Dance, done the Harlem Shake, been to a Bush Dance, done pilates and fitness training and held a disco.

As usual a group of boarder did their Bronze Medallion. These skills are invaluable and help to keep our pool a safer place. Well done to everyone who participated on successfully completing the course.

It’s also been good to see some of the girls playing netball, soccer and taking part in cadets and in Alice Springs Running and Walking Club events. One thing the Walk in her Shoes challenge highlighted was how little activity some of the boarders do. 10,000 steps is the bare minimum anyone should do for a healthy lifestyle and it made it clear that unless they have PE that day or make some effort to do an activity after school their steps would fall well below that. Hopefully next term’s cooler weather will give them plenty of opportunity.

Nobody who is a day student can ever really appreciate just how exciting the end of term is for boarders. Tonight will be a rush of last minute packing and happy chatter. I wish you all a wonderful Easter and a lovely holiday with your daughters.

Margaret Stevenson

Sometimes, when you live in a boarding house, activities just pop up out of nowhere.

Three weeks before the end of term on a Sunday afternoon, some of the girl boarders had the idea of doing the Harlem Shake.

No-one knows how we ended up doing it, but we had a ball with it. Most people got dressed up and there were some strange looking characters. There was no shame at all and some of the boys also appeared in the video as well.

We did the video by the school pool, so when we were all dancing mostly everyone jumped in the pool.

Stevo, who looks after us crazy girls, was the one dancing first, before everyone joined in.

The video was priceless. It was something to always remember. This was only the first term of the year, so I’m sure we will be doing a lot more crazy stuff before you know it.

Zara Milton

For information on boarding at St Philip’s tel: 08 89504511; fax 0889504522; e-mail info@stphilips.nt.edu.au