Many hands...........

It’s been a very long term, especially for those who have only just come to boarding, but now with only two wake ups to go the end is in sight!

It’s been good to have lots of new boarders. Despite some understandable homesickness they have settled in well and it has been good to see them getting involved in plenty of activities and to hear so many of them singing at events. We’ve also welcomed Shannon Killer as our new resident in the senior dorm and what a great contribution she has made.

She so clearly has the interests of the girls at heart and this is obvious in everything she does. You can read an interview with her on page 6. In addition we’ve welcomed a new casual staff member, Cindy Uzzell who is now working Sunday mornings. As many of you will know Cindy used to be a boarder last year, but she has adapted to her new role with ease and it is great to have her on board.

Next term we will welcome two more new staff. Rhiannan Parker and Vicki Hutchinson are both new teachers at St Philip’s this year and they will be working evening shifts with the girls. They promise to bring an abundance of energy and ideas to the boarding house and I am very pleased to have them on the staff.

This term has not been without its challenges but we have had plenty of highlights too. We have certainly kept busy. We’ve been to the town pool, to the bowling alley and to beach volleyball. We’ve played games in the stadium, played some ‘home grown’ games such as the Fashion Stakes and our version of the television game such as Would you lie to me. We’ve also done some team bonding games which were fun one Sunday morning.

A new activity this year was taking on a plot at the Alice Springs Community Garden. It was very satisfying to turn a piece of barren earth into a productive plot. While enthusiasm has waned from the numbers who started off creating the plot, it is good to see there are still some committed to it and it is pleasing to report that we harvested our first lettuce and Asian greens in the last week of term. I hope the families of our gardeners (continued on back page)

Boarders return: Sunday 27 April

News in brief

Hello to:
- Shannon, our new staff boarding resident in the senior dorm
- Cindy an ex boarder who has joined us as a staff member
- Hello to new boarders Shaniah, Emma, Meagan, Chelsea, Iona, Darcy and Dakoda

Welcome back to:
- returning boarders: Lucy, Alicka and Zoe

Hello and goodbye to:
- Clarisse, our exchange student from Germany
- Helena who is going to Katherine

Congratulations to:
- Emma for gaining most Blue marks
- Brooke for winning the Prep award
- Chelsea for winning most Smileys
- Darcy and Zara for having perfect diaries (continued on back page)
On Saturday 29th March the girls’ boarding house held our annual fundraising dinner. As per usual the menu consisted of nibbles, pumpkin and leek soup, marinated steak with roast vegetables and green salad, followed by cheesecake and tea and coffee. Our goal for the night was to raise enough money to buy 10 prosthetic hands through the company Helping Hands. Helping Hands is a company designed for workplaces and schools and they distribute hands to be made by students and employees as a team building activity. The hands are quite basic in appearance and function; however they provide an essential asset to people who have lost their hands in accidents. The hands built by the students and employees are then sent out by the Helping Hands company to places such as Cambodia and Uganda to provide hands to those who have been, primarily in, landmine accidents. The Australian Branch of Helping Hands is run by a man called Matt Hendricks who is passionate about helping those affected by landmine accidents.

The girls worked hard all week making preparations for the dinner and practising the cheesecake and the steak and vegetables. There was also a lot of polishing of plates and wineglasses to be done and the plates and cutlery had to be shone. The
giving a helping hand

girls put an amazing amount of effort into the decorations making the tables look magnificent, many of the younger girls were keen to get involved and it was great to see them learning from the older girls.

On behalf of everyone involved in preparing the dinner I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made a donation, Colin Puruantatameri for coming and performing and Umema for helping prepare the dinner by helping the girls to make the cheesecake even though she was no longer a boarder.

The dinner was a huge success with Emma Campbell-Brogan, Shania Milton, Megan DeHamer, Helena Dawson performing songs and Zoe Fitzpatrick, Helena Dawson, Martha Ondeyo, Georgie McGregor, Hanna Ure-Pearce, Zara Milton and myself cooking and waitressing on the night. We raised a total of $3470 which was enough money to buy 12 and a bit hands. It will be great to watch the girls and those who offered to help out, building the hands next term with parents and staff.

Margo Sullivan
Snakes and more snakes!

The boarding house went to the Alice Springs Reptile Centre for a fun activity one weekend.

When we arrived at the Reptile Centre we were scared of what we might see—spiders, snakes, lizards, etc.

We walked around for a bit seeing all the reptiles they have. Some of the girls got a bit scared of the animals. It was quite funny to see.

When we started learning we found out that Australia has 18 out of 20 of the most venomous snakes in the world and that Australia has anti venom for all our snakes. We also learnt what to do when a snake bites you.

At the Reptile Centre we got to hold a huge snake that was a bit too friendly with us. It was a bit scary to hold a snake that was a couple of metres long and very heavy. It was a fun and scary day at the Reptile Centre. I wish we could do it again one time.

Meagan de Hamer

Fun at the 80’s Disco

One of the weekends this term we had an 80’s disco. It was pretty funny when all the girl and boy boarders dressed up in the 80’s theme.

We had all sort of lollies and soft drinks. We also had boy and girl best dancer & best dressed prizes which were a free ticket to the movies.

We had Helena D doing the music and all the boarders put in requests for songs the week before the disco.

All in all it was a pretty good night. It was fun, funky, funny and a really good first disco for the new boarders.

Thanks also to the people who set the disco up. You guys did an awesome job.

Shania Milton

Trivia

One Saturday in February, the boys and girls had a quiz night. There were rounds on music and movies, and questions about the boarding staff, famous logos and places around the school.

In between the rounds we had all different activities such as Heads and Tails, Monte Carlo, Riddles and a paper aeroplane competition. Our team which was made up of Margo, Ethan, Philip and myself won two bars of chocolate for guessing the riddles and we each won a cinema voucher winning the whole competition!

Thank you to Stevo and Nathan for organising the quiz night.

Brooke Baliva
The Term in Pictures
In the fashion stakes we were given a category and had to dress one team member as that character.

The first category was rappers: we had 3 teams dress up as Lil Wayne another team dressed their teammate up as Nicki Minaj and our team dressed up our teammate Shania as Eminem.

The team that won was Savannah’s team.

The second category was princesses but with a twist. We had to dress in garbage bags: all teams had done an amazing effort with the garbage bag gowns but only one team was victorious and that was….. my team. I dressed in a green and black skirt and top with Prince Rickaine at my side.

The next one was superheroes and we had a laugh at these guys as they brought out all their tricks and our winner was Helena.

The next one was aliens. We watched as the teams performed skits and fancy dances with many falls, but in the end Natalie took out the title as best alien.

After that we had a school girl category which Zara’s team won.

The last category was a team effort. We had to dress at least 3 members of our team as a Disney character. We had the Little Mermaid, Frozen, the Princesses and a Beast.

In the end only one team won and that was the team with Zara, Savannah, Meagan, Darcy and Natalie.

Iona McKenzie

What was it like moving into the boarding house for the first time?
I admit it was daunting knowing that I was going to live with 33 adolescent females, but, I was looking forward to all the good times I would share with the girls.

Why did you decide to move into the boarding house?

I decided to move in to the boarding house after spending some time with the girls and spending some time thinking about what I could bring to the boarding house. In the end the decision was easy because I think the world of the girls.

What’s the most challenging thing about living in the boarding house?
I find it challenging to get out of bed before 8:00 am on a Saturday morning for my weekend shift. I like to sleep in.

What do you benefit from living in the girls’ boarding house?
I feel that the greatest thing about living in the boarding house is getting to know the amazing young women who have different stories and different challenges but all have such a big heart.

(Interview by Rebecca Grange)
Busy Bees at the Community Garden

This term the boarding house decided to rent a plot at the Alice Springs Community Garden. The girls started one Saturday morning to build the plot. There were about 15 girls.

The plot at the start was quite barren and had a plain dirt floor.

We first started to lay down cardboard and then mulch and St Philip’s branded lucerne and buffle grass (from Mrs Fredriksen’s garden) Then we coated the lot with a very condensed compost, watered it down and left it for about one week. A man named Bruce came down to the garden and helped us lay down the compost and set up the watering system and then we were good to go.

The girls had a meeting and in the meeting the boarding house decided it would be a great idea to name the plot ‘Busy Bees’.

The following Saturday Stevo, Meagan and I went to Bunnings and bought a few seedlings. We bought chillies, tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce and Asian greens. We planted them and then left them. Unfortunately a few plants died because they were not planted close enough to the watering holes but we learnt from this to plant more carefully next time. On the other hand a few plants did extremely well, compared to the other plants.

After a couple of weeks Stevo, Iona and I went to Geoff Mier’s nursery and got a few more seedlings for our fast-growing garden. We got asparagus, daisies, peas, chocolate mint and oregano. Then in the cool afternoon we planted the seedlings making sure they were right next to the watering holes.

The plants that died were the peas, some strawberries, and a few daises, but the rest are flourishing and are looking great.

With it being a community garden we met a fellow named Steve and he gave us some broad bean seeds and they are doing well also.

The community garden decided to host a competition and the aim was to make a letter box before the Easter holidays. After a little while we started to form an idea about our box and since the name of the plot was ‘Busy Bees’ we made a box that looked like a bee!

It had striped wings and a black and yellow striped body. Stevo, Shannon and I and all the rest of the boarding house were very pleased with the results.

This garden has shown girls to take responsibility and pride in their work, and how natural and home-grown produce is much better for you than buying it from the shop!

Chelsea Yu
Honour Roll

Contribution

Most Improved

Emma

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2 Margo
Wk 3 Martha
Wk 4 Mikeely
Wk 5 Chelsea
Wk 6 Helena D
Wk 7 Brooke
Wk 8 Sunette
Wk 9 Darcy
Wk 10 Emma

Bentley Bombers hit the big time!

On Saturday of Exeat Weekend, the Bentley Bomber girls went to Traeger Park and played football with other girls from the communities.

All the girls split up into two teams. They split them up so we could all have a shot at winning and so we could all have a turn at getting the ball. We played the whole field.

All the girls played really well and were all good sports. After the game had finished the Bombers team had won.

After the game all the girls stayed behind to do training with the Melbourne Demon players. They did goal kicking, handpassing and tackling drills.

When we had all finished doing the drills with the Demon players most of the girls got some photos and autographs from the players.

The girls had a great day and hopefully we can do it again next year.

Savannah Fraser

(continued from front page)

Congratulations to:

- Those girls who completed the Lifeline Safetalk course
- Helena D on achieving her Life Guard award, Natalie, Zara and Georgie on achieving their Bronze Medallions and Margo, Helena and Hanna on renewing theirs successfully

Thank you to:

- Margo for organizing the dinner and everyone else for their support and hard work
- Everyone who supported our fund raising efforts
- All the staff for their dedicated work
- All the girls who wrote articles for the Buzz

(continued from page one) enjoyed them! Please read the excellent article on page 7.

Thinking of others is an important part of our boarding ethos and this term some of the girls completed a Lifeline Safetalk course and others did their Bronze Medallion.

We also focussed on others in two more events. On Valentine’s Day we took gifts for the residents of Flynn Lodge and a number of the girls sang for them. It is something we have done for years and the girls are always keen to go.

Our major event of the term was our annual fund raising dinner. This year’s organiser was our Boarding Captain, Margo and she did an outstanding job. When somebody tells me she can’t use green whiteboard markers because a couple of the guests are colour blind then I know I have somebody who is really on top of the job! Margo’s eye for detail and the amount of time she was prepared to commit to the event was outstanding. You can read all about the event on pages 2 and 3.

Shannon came up with the great idea of the dinner raising money for prosthetic hands and we raised enough money for 15. We will be constructing these hands on Sunday 11 May so please let me know if you wish to be involved and haven’t already told me. They are a bit tricky so the more help the better.

In the meantime have a wonderful two weeks with your daughters - and I intend to have a wonderful two weeks without them!

Margaret Stevenson

(continued from page one)

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