

Boarders' Buzz

St Philip's College Girls' Boarding

Volume 13 Issue 4, Term 4 2011

Mastering mosaics!



Working at work on the mosaic one Saturday morning.

About two weeks before the end of the year I put up a catalogue for *Donations for a Difference* and a notice asking if anyone would like to buy anything. It was so near the end of term I did it more in hope than expectation, so I was pleased when Caelli announced she wanted to buy a cow. I pointed out that this was \$250, there was only a week to go and there were exams, so maybe she should aim for something smaller.

I underestimated Caelli and the other girls, who despite the holidays approaching, the summer heat and exams, got rapidly to work gardening and soon had enough for the cow and other items.

It was pleasing to see them continue in this generous spirit by donating enough money to buy seven presents to put under the K mart Wishing Tree and

ending the term in true Christmas spirit.



Umema practises her CPR while Hanna and Cyndy look on

**Year 12 Boarders
due back**

Sunday 29 Jan

Year 7

Monday 30 Jan

Years 8-11

Tuesday 31 Jan

Earlier on in the term, the main focus was on finishing the new outdoor area, and mastering the art of mosaic. You can read all about that on page 4. It was hard work, but lots of fun and all of us involved felt a real sense of achievement (and relief) at having finished.

Water featured prominently in our activities this term as it always does in the summer, with regular swimming and a couple of exciting water fights, including one with CCC.

We also had nine girls pass or update their Bronze Medallions and well done to our staff member, Amanda, who did hers too.

We packed a lot into a very short term and I hope the Buzz will give you a glimpse into our lives over the last term.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and fulfilling 2012.

Margaret Stevenson

News in brief

Hello and goodbye to:

- Dipika and Sally our lovely exchange students
- Goodbye to our year 12 boarders, Mikaela, Catherine, Hannah, Danielle and Donal.

Congratulations to:

- All those boarders, too numerous to mention, who won awards at the Year 12 Graduation, the Art Night and the LOTE, Sports and Academic Assemblies.
- Cheyane on winning the Spirit of Griffiths Trophy.
- Annie on winning this term's Contribution to Boarding
- Heleama on winning this term's Most Improved Boarder
- Donal Umema, Sunette, Skye and Jess on winning this year's boarding awards
- Umema on Most Smiley Awards for the term and for the year

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Halloween—trick or treat



On the night of Halloween a group of us went trick or treating. It was raining and cold, but we still faced the rain and got dressed up.

We were all dressed in different kinds of costumes from witches and ghosts to pirates.

We went all over town going to different teachers' houses. First we went to Mr Duff's and surprised Ewan.

Then we visited Mr and Mrs Knott where his three sons were all dressed up waiting for us. Then we went to Jill Janson's house, where Sunette screamed

her heart out when she saw a man in a really scary clown outfit. After that we played games.

Next we visited Penny, the nurse, and then Ketut, our cook. At Mrs Fleming's house we played pass the parcel and got scared by Mrs Hurst and her husband.

Finally we went out of town and down a long dark wet driveway to Mrs Crogan's house where we had hot chocolate and pavlova.

Many thanks to all the staff involved. We had a great night.

Hanna Ure-Pearce

CCC– Pool Party

On Friday 25 November we invited the Christian Community Centre Youth Group to a pool party.

The night started out slowly while we waited for people to arrive and while we were waiting we played a few games in the quad.

While we played, others made food. Around 6:30pm the food was ready and we all rushed towards the delicious smell.

The games began at 7pm. We played three games. The first game we played was tails, which everyone was kind of successful in.

The second game we played was capture the flag in which both teams cheated!

Lastly, we had a water fight which was hard because in it we were given a challenge which half of us failed.

After that we jumped in the pool and had more fun.

The evening turned out great thanks to a few people who contributed. Thanks to Cyndy who looked after us on the night and thanks to all the girls who made the visitors feel welcome. Also a big thank you to Stevo for organising the pool party and thanks to CCC and the adults who came with them.

Sunette Mndebele



Fashion Stakes



The Fashion Stakes brings out the weird in everyone!

Fashion Stakes is one of many games we girls love playing. For me this was my first game and I absolutely loved it.

Working in teams, the groups are given different topics and have to dress one of the team members up in a certain time.

The first topic was 'Garbage Formal'; we had to make dresses or suits out of garbage bags.

The second topic was 'Super Heroes'

Cooking

This term Ms Tudor opened the school Home Economics room so we could cook some Halloween sweets.

We had a small competition that not only involved taste, but cleanliness, teamwork and presentation.

Everyone created some delicious food and one group even managed to turn a cake that didn't cook, into a swamp for their orange spider. It was very creative of them and they did a great job.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and we would like to thank Ms Tudor for opening the room for us.

The overall winners of the competition were Zoe, Jennifer and Margo. They created muffins and used liquorice to decorate the top as well as chocolate shavings. The winning group also hollowed out a muffin and filled it with chilli powder and

and that was a funny one. Sunette got very much into her character and made us all laugh.

The next topic was 'Disney Characters' which everyone got into. I was in this round, and dressed as Rifiky from *The Lion King*.

The last round was 'A Day at the Races' where everyone got very excited and got beautifully dressed or at least some of us did!

Jess came as a horse and Margo as the jockey; it was the highlight of the night.

Zoe Fitzpatrick



Creations for the Garbage Bag formal!

garlic then attempted to feed it to the boys. Kyle was smart enough to smell the muffin first, but Don was not so bright and took a big bite from the middle getting a mouthful of garlic and chilli. He was horrified

that we did that to him, but he soon forgave us when we gave him a muffin that was not tampered with. We all had a great night and it was lots of fun.

Margo Sullivan



Umema and Kelsey at work



Margo working on her liquorice decorations.

Before and after—the final result!



Outside area at the start of Term 3..



The old style gym....

doggedly stuck to the task and produced most of the petals.

We had originally intended that our swinging seat would stand on the mosaic, but after all the work we decided not to cover it up, so instead we hit on the idea of a bird bath in the centre and we're glad we did as it looks great. Then we put up the hanging baskets, planted bushes for the edges and bought a mosaic table, chairs and umbrella.

It still didn't look quite finished so we put down a stepping stone path and a couple of bushes either side of the doorway and these items made all the difference.

The girls have worked hard and feel pleased with the result. It's been a fulfilling two terms and made a real difference.

Once again many thanks to those people and organizations named in the last edition who contributed so generously to our project. It would have been impossible without their generous help.

Please make sure next time you're here that you come through and have a look. As one of the boarders said to a staff member the other 'Now we've got to make the front of the boarding house look as good as the back!'

Margaret Stevenson

As you will have read in the Term 3 Buzz we've been really busy over the last semester doing renovations. Whereas Term 3 was hard work, Term 4 was more creative with the main project being the mosaic.

We had been uncertain what to do with the concrete slab situated in the area, when a visitor came up with the great idea of a mosaic. None of us had ever done anything like this before so we recruited the help of Franca Fredericksen, whose knowledge and enthusiasm guided us throughout.

We asked around for old tiles and thanks to people's generosity we soon had a large pile. We decided on a border and started work on this, still with no idea about the middle.

Umema came up with the idea of including the boarding house motto *Our minds say we're friends, our hearts say we're sisters* but we soon realized there were too many words, so decided to place the four main words in each corner. We also decided to include the year all the work had been done.

Jess came up with the design for the centre and Rachael suggested a flower on each side which was an excellent touch. None of us realized though how hard it would be to cut out the petals. Many thanks to every one who valiantly struggled with the tile cutter, but especially to Marie who

.....and at the end of Term 4



.....and the new look



Term in pictures



Goodbye from Donal

How do I begin a letter which encompasses my entire boarding life at St Philip's? With great difficulty I assure you! Living in the boarding house has been memorable to say the least.

I started as a tiny Year 8, prone to passing hobbies and severe cases of homesickness and over the past 4 years I have made friends and taken full advantage of opportunities I had never thought possible.

I loved being involved in the construction of the new gym, which has only been possible thanks to generous donations and the support of Jan Heaslip, Franca Fredericksen and Chris Tudor.

I have thoroughly enjoyed all the fashion games, the camping, the sport, the sleepovers, the movie nights, the running up and down in the hallways, the trips to Old Timers for Valentine's Day and all the other activities I have participated in that have made my time in boarding extraordinary.

But as much as I have enjoyed all these, I have come to realise that it was not the activities that made the boarding house so special, but the people I have shared them with. All the girls who have come and gone, or remained constantly throughout my time here, have all contributed in some way to the person I am today and the wealth of experiences I have had.

I love the compassion and caring I see exemplified every single day by all the girls, whether it is someone offering a shoulder to cry on when their friend is upset, or the way in which all the girls reach agreements in the evening meetings through negotiation and consideration of each other.

I am proud to see the way our juniors grow over the years and I am proud of the way our seniors offer such diverse and positive role models for them.

I utterly adore our staff, who always give 110% and I can't express how much their dedication and compassion makes a difference.

There have been hard times, days of ill health or homesickness where I found things difficult, but ultimately this experience has only served to make me stronger and I cannot thank these girls enough for the part they have played.

I was proud to be this year's Boarding-Captain and I think next year looks so full of potential with our new boarding prefect!

This note is to all of you girls, to my sisters Jess and Margo whom I love so much, and to my sisters in boarding whom I will never forget and will remain a part of me for the rest of my life: Annie, Rachael, Catherine, Mikaela, Hannah, Dannielle, Helema, Louise N, Caelli, Sheridan, Skye, Rhiannon, Cyndy, Stella, Umema, Emily, Kelsey, Hanna, Cheyanne, Meraud, Brooke, Louise A, Sunette, Martha, Lucy, Kate, Zoe, Jen and Alicka.

To my metaphorical 'mothers' Stevo, Libby, Marie, Amanda, Jen, Crystal, our matron Charmaine, nurse Penny, and, until recently, Jan.

I don't think I have words for the support, encouragement, teasing, laughter, guidance counselling, caring and compassion you have shown not only to me, but all the girls. My appreciation is undying. To all of you, I wish you the very best and promise to keep in touch!



Donal with sisters Jess, Margo and mum, Sally

Goodbye from Dannielle

Hi my name is Dannielle Noonan. I'm 17 years old and I am a Year 12 boarder at St Philip's College Boarding House. I'm from Rockhampton Downs Station 200km East from Mt Isa in the Barkly Tablelands.

Now that I have finished my Year 12 schooling I have realised what I'm going to miss at the boarding house, and that's all my boarding house sisters. When I first came to St Philips in 2007, in the middle of Year 8, I thought 'I'm going to be at St Philip's forever'.

I missed my home so much and my family through the years when I came back to school, but I had to be strong for myself and for my people.

Boarding House life is not easy because you miss everything about your home life and your family and friends.

But I realise that coming to a boarding lifestyle makes you stronger and more independent so that when you go out in the world you have more confidence because you already went through the stages when living in a boarding house. I started playing girls footy with the school team the *Bentley Bombers* because footy was always my passion. The team was mostly boarders because footy was a passion that boarders were interested in. For the many years that I played with my team, the memories that I have will never be forgotten: the fun and the rough times we went through competing against other teams in Alice Springs that were bigger and stronger than us, but we kept supporting each other like a team and we got through.

I won the Best and Fairest medal two years,



The Garry Ablett of the Boarding House!

2008 and 2011. It was a surprise when I won it the second year because I never knew that I was going to get picked again, but I was the superstar Ablett in my team.

The journey at St Philip's College boarding house was tough and full of events, but I kept my head up high and learned to follow my dream which was to complete Year 12. I thought that 5 years was going to be forever, but it went so fast that now I'm already finished schooling and it was a big shock, because I wanted to get out of school and to

be free and now I am. Next year I'm going to be working at my station. I will be a jillaroo there and I'll work my way through and see what other station job openings will be there. The country life is what I like the most because I feel free. I will miss my boarding sisters, the houseparents that were always there for me, but most of all I'm going to miss my gugu (nana) Margaret Stevenson, who was always there as my nana at school and I will miss the fun and events that we had over the years.

Goodbye from Hannah



Hannah and her guitar were never far apart

When I was told that I would be leaving for boarding school, I was shocked. I screamed, I cried and I wrote a song saying 'Please don't let me go' that made both my parents cry. I never thought that 2 years later I would still be at boarding school finishing Year 12 and saying goodbye with tears in my eyes.

I arrived with one guitar one suit case and one sister. Over the years I built on many things. I now have two guitars, two suit cases and around 30 sisters.

I remember my first day of boarding school was my birthday. This I wasn't too happy about until I saw the size of my birthday cake and around 60 boys and girls singing me happy birthday! It is one of the things I will never forget.

Being in boarding is a life changing experience! It's so different from my life at home. It's like a big sleep over every night with all your new sisters, one big

through the hard times, made me laugh when I was sad, healed me when I was sick and just been around when I needed them the most.

This boarding house gave me so many opportunities to meet new people from all over Australia and the world and it gave me a chance to improve my social skills and showed me how much there is to life. The things I have done, such as: fundraising for Fred Hollows and Red Shield Appeal; doing a moonlight bike ride; camping at Simpson's Gap; going to teachers' houses for Halloween and experiencing the fashion stakes are only some of the things I will carry with me forever.

The friends I have made and the family I have created will stay in my heart forever. It is one of the best things I have experienced in my life. It has opened my eyes to so many new things and given me a chance to open my heart to many others. Goodbye and just so you know I love you all, I will never ever forget you. I'm going to leave you with a few words from a song I wrote whilst in boarding.

*Standing in a hallway, so many rooms to choose from
Which door will I take,
what choices will I make
So many friends around me,
handing me advice
They're always here to catch
my back, help me when I'm
feeling sad.*

(continued from front page)

- Caelli for initiating buying a cow through *Donations for a Difference*
- Alicka on winning Most Blue Marks

Thanks to:

- Franca for her help with our mosaic
- All the staff for the care and dedication with which they do their jobs.
- Mrs Pollitt for prompting us to buy presents for the Wishing Tree and all those who contributed
- All the boarders who worked hard on the mosaic
- Umema for watering the plants every day
- Everyone who raised money for the cow.

Honour Roll

Most Improved Boarder

Heleama

Contribution to the Boarding House

Annie

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2 Umema

Wk 3 Jess

Wk 4 Cyndy

Wk 5 -

Wk 6 Annie

Wk 7 Kelsey

Wk 8 Caelli