We’re 50 Years Young!

What a busy term it has been. While obviously the 50th anniversary was the centre piece of the term there were plenty of other things going on as well. I’ll leave you to read about the Anniversary on pages 2 and 3 and will now write about other things.

It only occurred to me when I was putting the Buzz together that I hadn’t asked anyone to write about our visit to Old Timers on Valentine’s Day. This is something we have done for the past 15 years and is such a rewarding event. Each year we take roses and chocolates and sing for the residents. This year it was great to have the Gappies involved and also to see all our new Year 7 students there. The future of our boarding house lies in these young people and I have to say how very impressive the seven of them have been.

I was also enormously impressed yesterday when I issued a challenge to the girls. I had set them a target of raising $25 each for Vatuatu in the last two weeks of term. After a week we had raised $876. At 3pm yesterday I challenged them to raise the extra $124 before prep at 6pm. They were amazing – 17 of them set to wash cars, gardens were swept, they hosed things down and did other odd jobs. Eight of us went up to Mr Tudor’s to move a huge pile of red sand into his garden. By 6pm the total had risen to just over $1100. I was proud of them!

Rather than go through all the activities we have done, some of which you will see articles about, I’d just like to use this column to say a huge thank you to two staff members who are leaving. Louise has been with us 3 years (see Hanna’s article) and has been a wonderfully flexible and supportive member of staff. It has been great to

Boarders return:
Sunday
19 April

News in brief

Hello to:
• All our new boarders and families

Hello and goodbye to:
• Jaivantika, our exchange student from India

Goodbye to:
• Louise, our long term staff member who is returning to Queensland
• Vicki who will still be around but is no longer doing regular shifts due to work commitments
• Zoe in Year 12 who is becoming a day student

Congratulations to:
• Natalie on becoming a house officer
• Jordan and Alyssa for gaining most Blue marks
• Kate for winning the Prep award
• Nikita and Chelsea for winning most Smiley
• Emily and Zara for having perfect diaries

(continued on back page)
This year St Philip’s celebrated its 50th anniversary as a boarding college. On Friday 13, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March the school hosted the St Philip’s College 50th Back to Boarding celebrations on the school and boarding campus.

The school welcomed back past boarders, past staff as well as current boarders and current staff.

The celebrations kicked off on Friday with a BBQ for the guests and boarders, with dessert afterwards.

Saturday was the Back to Boarding 50th reunion activity day and the boarding house was open for walk-throughs.

Past boarders and past staff had tours of both the boys’ and girls’ dorm to see how different it is now compared to how it used to be when they lived here many years ago.

On Saturday night the celebrations included a big dinner set up for everyone who participated in the weekend’s events. This included live music and great food.

The weekend celebrations concluded on Sunday with a chapel service for those who wanted to participate. This service was held at the Swag Chapel and it was a full house.

The overall weekend celebrations were a great reminder of what a fantastic school and boarding house St Philip’s really is.

Everyone who attended the celebrations had nothing but praise for our school.

Brianna McIlivrary
I had been looking forward to the 50th Anniversary weekend for a year or so as a great chance to catch up with many old boarders and staff. As it happened most of the people who came had much older connections with the college than I do. (I’ve been here a mere 15 years) I particularly remember one couple who had met on the College staff in 1968, married in 1970 and were now meeting College people they hadn’t seen for 45 years. How great was that!

I was amazed how many of the College’s first boarders had made the journey too, and only realised this when it was time for year group photos.

It was a real tribute to the College that so many people had travelled from all over Australia to be here and it was very obvious what a great time they had. So many people worked hard to make the weekend such a huge success and it would be impossible to name them all, but I would just like to give some credit to our current boarders who really rose to the occasion magnificently. As one visitor said – he was very impressed with the facilities, but even more so with the students.

A lot was asked of our current boarders that weekend – from having a constant stream of visitors through the dorm, to taking guests on school tours; from making amazing entrees to serving ice cream, from setting tables to lighting a camp fire.

They worked willingly and tirelessly through the three days and everyone appreciated their efforts. Great job girls! Well done!

Margaret Stevenson
On March 2 the boarding girls took the opportunity to meet and have an exercise class with Gold medallist, Olympian swimmer internationally renowned, kayak rower and super mum Lisa Curry Kenny.

When we arrived at the YMCA we were kindly greeted by Y’s staff and were shown to where we would be having the class.

We all got to meet Lisa and each received a “One road trip” cap from Lisa if we promised we would dance. I’m pretty sure we didn’t dance...

When the class started, we did a group warm up and then proceeded into three groups: beginner, intermediate and advanced. We did planks, sit ups and cardio exercises.

After the class, Lisa sat us down for a talk on healthy eating and living.

We then said goodbye to Lisa and her crew. We all received key chains and pull string bags. On some of the key chains there were signatures and whoever had them got a t-shirt. I was one of the lucky ones.

It was a very active night. Special thanks to Lisa and her crew, the YMCA staff and Debbie Page and Sabrina for taking us to this lovely event.

Iona Mackenzie

On Wednesday 18th March Debbie Page was awarded the Harmony Day award at assembly.

Deb is very helpful in the boarding house, driving people where they need to go and taking them to appointments when needed. On top of helping out the boarders she is a very fit and healthy person. She was in the Masters Game and won many medals and she is currently holding a gym session with the girls every Tuesday.

Deb treats everyone equally and makes us all feel valued.

In the boarding house we don’t take advantage of her. We respect her and most of all we love her to pieces, and we wouldn’t know what to do if she wasn’t here with us today. We love you so much Deb.

Shania Milton

Now it’s time to say good bye to one of our boarding staff members, Louise.

Louise has been with us in the Girls’ Boarding House for the last three years and in that time we have had a blast.

Louise came to St Philips five years ago for a one year job and loved it so much she stayed.

Two years later she started working in the boarding house, starting off with Wednesday nights and then moving on to Monday nights.

Louise has been a very valuable member of our boarding staff and has contributed so much to the atmosphere around the Boarding House. We are all going to miss her immensely.

Louise, we all hope that you move back home gives you everything you are looking for and more!

Thank you for being part of our massive boarding family. We love you!

Hanna Ure-Pearce
Two and a half months ago I set foot in this prestigious school alongside my partner Karan, to start my enthralling journey as an exchange student. As I did not have an exchange partner, the boarding house was my home for my entire time here, and honestly I’m glad for that as I got to meet so many amazing people who I probably wouldn’t have been so close to as I am now. I was greeted by the students with warm and friendly smiles.

The boarding house has a way of making everyone feel at home. There was always some activity or the other going on that kept us all on our feet the entire time, which was fun. This way I got to participate in a number of exciting things. We either went to the town pool for a swim, or we just had pool parties in school which were enjoyed by everyone. We also played beach volleyball and did a little baking in the new food tech room.

During my time here I got to visit a number of places and do so many things which I wouldn’t have done anywhere else. Along with the Gap students we went to Yulara to see Ayers Rock and to Kings Canyon, which was absolutely phenomenal, and the next week we went on a hot air balloon ride over the MacDonnell Ranges just in time for the sunrise which was so mesmerising.

We also went to the Reptile Centre, the Royal Flying Doctors, the Desert Park and the School of the Air.

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the 50th Anniversary of the Boarding House which was probably the highlight of my stay here. It was a delight to be of service to all the alumni; a few of whom had returned to school for the first time since they had graduated.

My exchange to Australia was absolutely wonderful, and for this unbelievable experience I would like to thank the exchange co-ordinators on both ends Ms Sandi Crogan and Ms Sarah Pollitt, and Mrs Binita Rishi back in India; Stevo and all the other staff associated with the boarding house for making my stay there so comfortable, and to all those people who made my two months here so memorable.

Jaivantika Rathore

Meet our new resident, Rhiannan

I was quite excited by the opportunity to become a boarding house parent this year. I have enjoyed the time I have been lucky enough to spend with the girls, and I am excited by continuing to develop their growth as an individual.

As a Physical Education teacher I am passionate about health and fitness, therefore giving the girls the skills to live a fulfilling healthy life. This year I have not only been focusing on health and fitness, but also encouraging the girls to explore their creative side by offering the chance for the girls to display their talents and passion through painting, photography, pottery and many other art activities.

Not only do the girls get the chance to explore these skills, but they have the chance to help make a difference for a local charity within the Alice Springs region by being involved in our own charity art exhibition coming in Term 3.

I am hoping that all of the girls have the most positive experience being in the Girls’ Boarding House and I look forward to the rest of 2015.

Rhiannan Parker
Fashion Stakes

The Girls’ Boarding House was full of anticipation and excitement. Everyone was getting their teams ready. It was annual Fashion Stakes day.

The judges were Year 12 Zoe and Stevo.

We had multiple themes some of which were vampires, aliens and rappers. Each and every team had their own unusual and individual names. Teams were formed before the night and everyone consisted of a variety of different year levels.

Each team had about 3 minutes in each round to do their act or show off their costumes.

In the end the scores were close and the girls had heaps of fun! The winners of the night were ‘Black and Yellow’ with the highest score and they won an awesome prize.

The night was amazing and everyone had a ball.

Jordan Nicolle

Having fun at our pool party

While the boys were off campus the girls decided to have a pool party.

Stevo brought blow up toys for the pool.

The Gappies were invited and before we went into the pool Stevo put out some food.

We all had a lot of fun bonding together.

At the end of the pool party we all had to pack up.

When we came back to the boarding house some of the girls were lying on the blow up toys on the grass because they were comfortable.

We all went to bed early because it was very tiring.

Emily Spry & Caitlin O’Donnell

Honour Roll

Contribution

Deb/Zoe D

Most Improved

Boarder of the Week

Wk 2  Emily

Wk 3  Chelsea

Wk 4  Zoe D

Wk 5  Zoe F

Wk 6 -

Wk 7  Shania

Wk 8  Zara

Wk 9 -

Wk 10  Zoe D

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