From the Principal

Salesian House continues to be a home that welcomes and a place that inspires. I have a wonderful sense of the care and the energy of the place and things seem to be going well. I have enjoyed watching the gradual cohesion of the boarding group. The distinct 2015 character is now established. Things have come together in the ease and rhythm of another school year. There is a comfort in friendship. There is support and fun. People are used to tempo of the place. Things happen predictably. People watch their manners, say their prayers and honour the respect that is always required. The place has become important to our young people.

The Strategic Plan

We are working with much interest in creating a Strategic Plan for the Boarding House. We want to create a document that reflects our continuous commitment to improvement. There are strategies around faith, student leadership, community development, buildings and environment and academic life. We are looking to build and enhance each domain. Ideas are being shared and discussions had with members of the community. The Salesian House continues to grow and improve. The plan will be given to the Board of Management.

Showing the visitors around

We are in the enrolment season at the moment. I have had the opportunity to speak with students and have asked Denise Arbon to join me as families consider the boarding option. My sense is that families ask about Salesian House and St Mark’s because of your recommendation. I acknowledge the affirming and public voice that you give about this school and this home. Your recommendation has been vital in the constant enrolments.

The welcome and goodbye everyday with eye contact

The one rule that seems never to be broken is when Denise Arbon insists that the boarders say “Good Morning” when the students leave for school and “Good Afternoon” when they return. Eye contact is mandatory and a smile not optional either. It is one of the powerful features of the place. Gracious communication, respect and taking the time to acknowledge another is a powerful formative process. I won’t forget to say hello to Mrs Arbon. She expects it of me.

The Noise in the Playground

This year there is much more action in the playground after school hours. Balls continuously bounce. There is music playing in the hall. There is the laugher of chasey and screeching around. There are constant shouts and roars of enthusiasm for goals kicked or dunked. The energy and the fun has a contagious goodness. I am delighted that there is such zest for life and things are so enjoyable.

Greg Hay
Principal
Student Activities

George Seppelt attends Mid North Christian College one week every term for Aviation Course. George also helps at the Ag Shed once or twice a week after school and he also volunteered at the year 12 drama productions.

The students continue to be very active this term in Netball, Football, Basketball, Badminton and Twilight netball.

Jack & Leah Ashe are very involved in the Youth Theatre at the Lighthouse Uniting Hall once a week and they were both in the ‘Grease’ production by the Southern Flinders Players with their performances being held on the 6th & 7th of March 2015.

Approximately 12 students attended the club to get an insight and were able to take part in the use of the pistols with supervision at all times. With seven of the boarding students going on to undertaking formal training at the Port Pirie Pistol and Shooting Club this term.

Jake Dolphin was formally commissioned as the Salesian House Captain in the Chapel by Mr Greg Hay.

Cameron Lindner Yr. 12 is attending Tafe to complete a Certificate II in Engineering and Leah Ashe Yr 11 to obtain a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Four of the boarding students attend the Trade Skills Centre once a week.

Sacha Weatherstone continues to attend Air Cadets and has been promoted to a Corporal Cadet.

Six students are participating in the Smith Family Student to Student program this term.

Ben Kleinig Yr. 12 is attending driving lessons on a weekly basis.

Five students competed in the Spencer Gulf Interschool Athletics in Term One, Josh Kleinig did extremely well winning some of his events.

We all enjoyed a night of Ten Pin Bowling at Bowland on the 23rd March 2015.

Staff-Student Activities

Katrina Johns continues to visit the house once a week.

Greg Hay and Naomi Creek have been kind enough to visit us and lead prayer presentation. We hope to gain further support from the teaching staff involvement in the future.

We are also very fortunate to have teaching staff to drive the bus for the students Street Night.

We also very fortunate to have teaching staff visit to tutor the students. Jane Bennett is visiting once a fortnight to tutor Year 8 to 10’s in Maths and Science. Other teachers have come to the house after school hours and their visits are always appreciated.

Cherie’s daughter Neisha has donated a pure white rabbit to the boarding house; Alby lives in a hutch in the courtyard.

Sadly one of our boarding students Patrick Williams’ father Chris passed away. Three of our students, Chef, myself and other members of the College staff and students joined with family and friends of the Williams family on 23rd March at Chris’s funeral.
Deputy Principal Kate Kilpatrick will join with 8 to 10 students to talk about involvement in Leadership development with the Strategic Planning for Salesian House.

The Mother’s Day raffle drawn on 7/5/15 was won by Paul Ashe. Leah and Jack were very excited to give this prize to their mum Margaret on Mother’s Day. Thank you again to all who donated to this raffle.

St Mark’s College
Salesian House

House Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday 17 May, 2015

1. Present
Michele Williams, Marie Manners, Denise Arbon, Kate Kilpatrick, Greg Hay

2. Apologies
Robyn Bowley, Jo Seppelt, Katrina Butterick, Marg Ashe, Annie Kleinig

3. Prayer

4. Minutes of the last Meeting: 15 February, 2015
Carried

5. Business Arising
  - P+F donation to the gym was received. Jake to write a letter of thank you
  - Strategic Plan: Partly completed. Students have been part of the reflection. More development this term.

6. Salesian House Report – Please see page 2

7. Principal’s Report

  - **Deputy Principal Acknowledgement** I have been delighted to welcome Kate Kilpatrick onto the Executive of the College as Deputy Principal.
  - **Salesian principals** from around Australia gathered at the College. Very successful
  - **Staff Development** at the start of term involved in tutoring each other to improve learning, classroom life and faithfulness. Very successful
  - **The 125 years of Good Samaritan Education** in Port Pirie to be celebrated with Catholic Education Week.
  - **Trade Skills Opening** was a highlight of last term. There is much good work going on there
  - The **Faith Formation** activity at the end of term included a visit form the Bishop and a play by the Year 10s
  - There is a group of 10 students involved in the **Philippines Immersion** to take place next holidays
  - The **enrolments** for the Boarding House look sound. There is still room for others considering

8. Board Report
   No Report

9. WHS Report
   No report

10. General Business
    - Option for a private area, such as a chapel, was discussed

11. Next meeting: **Sunday August 9, 7.30pm**
The Trade Skills Centre

This term in Rural Operations, held at the new Trade Skills Centre with state of the art building and large shed with new equipment giving students the opportunity to build new and essential skills to industry recognised standards. Dylan Isgar, Sam Butterick and I, Archie Smith will continue this course over the next two years.

At the moment we are building a barbeque to test our welding and hand tools skills, this barbeque will later be used for the cooking of food.

The next section of our course will involve us learning how to do a vertical up weld on two pieces of steel.

Air Cadets

In Year 8, I made the decision to join the Australian Air Force Cadets, and since then a lot has happened. I have had multiple promotions and have had many new experiences.

Every Wednesday night is parade night and I leave around 6.30pm, the night is broken into three periods each dedicated to one subject and we finish around 9.30pm.

Probably the best thing that I have experienced whilst there is getting the opportunity to spend two weeks down at the RAAF base Edinburgh for my Junior Non Commissioned Officers Course (JNCO). Despite the strict standards I have had a great time. I would recommend the Australian Air Force Cadets to anyone that wants this great opportunity as well as much more.

Aviation Studies

This year and next year I am enrolled in the Aviation course at Mid North Christian College. This course is designed for students to gain an insight into the Aviation industry.

We get to fly for one hour a week in a Jabiru 160-D which is a fixed wing two seater light aircraft. We also learn the theoretical side of flying and maintenance of light aircraft. On completion of the two year program I will receive my Recreational Pilot’s License.

The course operates over one week of each term and there is also the option of completing extra flying hours with Spencer Gulf Flight Training’s instructor Earl Longstaff who is a retired commercial pilot and has over 7000 flying hours.
Mother’s Day Raffle

The winner of the raffle for 2015 is Mr Paul Ashe, both Leah and Jack Ashe were able to present this wonderful gift to their mother on Mother’s Day when they returned to the boarding house on Sunday night.

The Newest Boarder

Term 1 has seen the arrival of a new pet for the students in the shape of a lovely floppy eared rabbit. A vote was taken and the name chosen Alby has been given to our rabbit. Alby is an albino and will not grow too big; he needs to be handled often to ensure he stays friendly. We have an enclosure in the courtyard for Alby and he is cared for by the students on a daily basis.

Twilight Netball

Student players for Twilight Netball 2015 included James Boston, Courtney O’Dea, Pat Connell who played for The Incrediballs, who were the runners up for the season and Leah Ashe who played for MA’s. James was picked as a member of The Team of The Year; this represents the best players throughout the season.

Craft

The boarding house has a new visitor on Thursday nights this year. Neisha Cater has kindly volunteered her time to teach the students (who are interested) some craft activities. The first term has seen the girls make candles, lip balms and jewellery. Neisha also volunteers her time at other schools doing presentations around animal care and pet adoption. She is very keen to share her skills and knowledge and we look forward to having her visit us in the future.
Team Building

The Boarding House has had some interesting prayer nights, in the absence of staff we have invited students who have a creative option for these nights to hold them. We have had a great team building activity which involved the students being split into chosen teams, they had 20 balloons and their challenge was to build a tower with these. First they had to blow them up and this saw many teams lose balloons due to over inflation. Some teams chose to adopt varied methods for building their tower, they were only allowed a roll of sticky tape to help them and off they went. It was a fun activity and overall all students put in a great effort.