The fundamental principle of the Salesian Boarding House is hospitality. Welcome is at its foundation. The place exists to shelter and to nurture. It offers a sense of home. The underpinning Salesian philosophy is that those who enter here are warmly received. I have seen it happen for years and know that this belief is its strength. Denise Arbon’s gracious smile and Pauline Broekx’s gentle organisation have meant security for so many families. David’s reassurance and the structures of support all work so well. What I haven’t seen before is hospitality on steroids. It happened.

The arrival of 48 Samoans and their six teachers caused an explosion of good will and fun and mountainous plates of food and squashed seating arrangements. It was quite incredible and it was a triumph. The visitors came for Don Bosco Technical Community in Alafua, Samoa. They were on a three week SIVA tour (dance and song) of our Australian Salesian schools and parishes and they stayed at the College. The students, aged between 15 – 23, are all studying a variety of trades whilst at their school.

Fr Chris Ford (a past staff member), their Principal and tour guide, introduced them to Salesian House and they certainly made an impact. It was the enormity of the numbers, the size of the boys and their need to eat that astonished. Denise spent endless hours making sure of things (like washing all of their clothes). The effort in catering by Greg Tomlinson was magnificent. Somehow Pauline had enough chairs out and was able to clean up afterwards. The dish washer kept churning out those dishes, tables were wiped down endlessly and the joyous, fascinating disruption in the home was wonderful.

The students responded with a great sense of fun. They laughed through a Quiz Night and shared meals. The boarders threw basketballs with them, coaxed the Facebook block to be turned off, entertained and were entertained by the visiting boys. They chatted in friendship over the two the days – well perhaps not that much at breakfast. It was all extraordinary.

The tour served as a great opportunity for our Boarding students to experience aspects of another culture whilst recognising the connection we have as Salesians. I was amazed. I was impressed by the efforts of so many. I was inspired by how hospitality at Salesian House can express itself.

Phew!

Greg Hay
Principal
I believe that everyone has something of a gift, talent or uniqueness about them and this especially applies to the students of Salesian House 2017. For example Harry Mead recently received an award for Academic Excellence in Year 8. Edward Bray and Henry Hall are obviously talented footballers as Edward won the Senior Colts Association Medal for the NAFA and Henry Hall was leading goal kicker for NAFA. Patrick Williams has received glowing accolades for his acting in The Port Pirie Youth Theatre performance ‘Hairspray’ currently playing in the Keith Michell Theatre.

Good luck to Bernie, Luke, Zac, Rhys, Edward, Harry, Patrick and Harry who are involved in finals as winter sports come to an end for another year.

Ashleigh, Courtney, Tom, George, Alex, Bernie, Patrick, Matthew and Dom will be working with the cattle and goats next week at the Adelaide Show and we wish them well.

As Mr Hay mentioned very graciously on the front page of the Bulletin, our visitors, 48 Samoans and their leaders were made to feel very welcome by our students and staff in Salesian House. I was very proud of the boarding students for the manner of respect shown to our guests. Students who attended the performance were moved by the wonderful singing and dancing of the Samoans.

It is now close to the ‘business’ end of the boarding year for our Year 12’s and hopefully all students will make the most of their study times to achieve their best academically.

Denise Arbon
Boarding Coordinator

Recently I was privileged to be selected as 1 of 50 Year 10 – 11 students around regional South Australia to participate in the MedSPACE program coordinated by the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency. The program gave me a true taste of what life after school will be like. It took place in Adelaide where we stayed in student accommodation at Immanuel College, toured universities and even sat a practice Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT). We spent a day at Flinders Medical Centre in Victor Harbor where the day was spent working with patients, applying casts and bandages and performing minor medical assistance. The program also allowed us to make lifelong friends who will probably be doing a similar University course as us. The program helped me to discover how I can make my dream of becoming either a pharmaceutical scientist or a doctor become reality and the effort required to get there.

Natasha Williams, Year 11

The Year 12 Retreat was held on the final three days of Term Two at the Port Hughes Accommodation Centre. We immersed ourselves into a deeply spiritual and reflective time that had such a profound impact on every single person. We had heard stories of past experiences, but Fr Francis was quick to remind us before we left that “every experience will be different.” It was a chance for the whole year level to unite and enjoy time together and it was also an opportunity for valuable reflection of where each of us are in life and where we may be going. Friendships were formed and healed, existing ones were consolidated and we became stronger and more cohesive as a cohort. Dancing with the Principal, Mr Hay, was most certainly a highlight. It was full of fun and delight and it produced such a burst of energy amongst everyone. The retreat was such a lovely experience that I will never forget and I hope that future Year 12’s enjoy it just as much.

Patrick Williams, Year 12
Anxiety – what is it and how can I manage it?

ARE YOU OK?

It is important to look after your mental health. Looking after your mental health can be simple and rewarding! Here are some simple tips to keep your mind healthy:

- Eat well and exercise regularly
- Get enough sleep and set aside some time in each day to relax
- Put time into activities and relationships that make you feel good
- Set yourself some short-term and long-term goals to look forward to
- Try to deal with problems instead of letting them build up
- Be aware of the possible effects of alcohol and drugs on your state of mind and relationships
- Talk to someone you trust

Crystal Brook Show

Along with three other boarders, Bernie, Tom and George, I represented the school at the Crystal Brook Show. It was a very successful day for St Mark’s College and at the end of the day we received two ribbons. I had the pleasure of parading Apollo, a Red Angus from the property of GR & RA Smith. He received the Overall Grand Champion ribbon. Billy, a Murray Grey from the Burt’s property was awarded Reserve Champion. It was a great experience and I was glad to be a part of it.

Alex Gove, Year 10

I believe that you need to work hard in class and be organised to receive an Academic award. Doing the majority of your work in class will relieve you of the stress of having too much homework. You must remain focused. That is how I learn.

Harry Mead, Year 8
For my work experience in the last week of Term 2, I went to South West Aviation in Cootamundra, N.S.W. I did many different jobs such as replacing windscreens in planes, cleaning and re-greasing wheel bearings, removing panels, testing spark plugs and much more. I found this very helpful as this is the area of work I want to be involved in when I leave school as my Dad is involved in the industry. Overall I enjoyed it and hope to do it again.

Will Dickson

In week 10 I did work experience at Beauty for You in Port Pirie. I chose to complete work experience at Beauty for You because I enjoy learning about skin therapy and the different beauty techniques. It was a good, fun week, the staff were all very nice and helped me each day learning the ropes. It helped me out a lot to understand what the workforce is like and to get a good idea of working with a different range of people.

Portia Richardson

I completed my Work Experience at the Burra Hospital. The main reason that I chose the hospital was because my dream is to become a nurse and one day work at the Burra Hospital. During the time I was there I assisted with showering, feeding and dressing the patients. I found it really rewarding to connect with the patients and gain their trust.

Alex Gove

For work experience in the last week of Term 2 I went to Adelaide to complete a week of upholstery. During this week there was a lot that I did and learnt. Some of the tasks that I performed were, making blanket boxes, taking apart chairs, removing the old fabric off to then put new fabric on, and also making some chairs from scratch. Although this is not the career I wish to pursue when I leave school it was good to experience a week of working away from school.

Matthew O’Dea

For my year 10 work experience I went to the Burra branch of Elders. I was greeted by a friendly staff who helped me throughout the whole week. I mainly worked with the agronomist doing activities like delivering chemicals and going to crop growth tests. Some other work jobs I did included stock write ups, working with the local stock agent and working with agriculture statistics. I wish to pursue a career in the field of agriculture in the future and work experience at Elders was the perfect start.

Patrick Connell

As part of SACE we were required to complete a week of voluntary work placement, commonly known as Work Experience. I chose to spend my week at the Jamestown branch of Elders. I chose to do my work at Elders because I like agronomy and working with livestock. During this week I got a better understanding of the running of a business such as Elders. I spent most of my time outside, either inspecting crops, visiting trial sites, drafting sheep and I even got to spend a morning at the Dublin sheep markets. I thoroughly enjoyed this week and would love to do it again.

Bernie Butterick