I attended a conference with Denise Arbon a couple of weeks ago. We headed off to Melbourne with a few others from St Mark’s. It was the Salesian School Leaders’ Conference and it was a great chance to meet the Salesian community from all over Australia. It was also a great chance to sit in the ‘Members Stand’ of the MCG and watch Richmond win. More importantly it was a chance to chat with Denise about Salesian House and her dream for the community that resides there. At the conference we spoke about the Salesian ideal that sees the home as a place of welcome and the boarding experience as a place of celebration. We talked about the Salesian House as a place of learning which supports the ambitions of the school. And it is also a place that is reflective. It is a faithful community. I especially like that part of the boarding community. Our young people get a chance to be reflective and to think deeply about spirituality. There is no confusion about it being a sacred place. Denise makes that very clear in her leadership. My own confidence is that it is a place of hospitality. It is the essential element of Salesian House. People are greeted and often drift into great conversation. People get a chance to eat a meal together and there are smiles about the place. There are busy adolescents everywhere, walking through, chatting, laughing and there is always time for a cuppa with visitors. It is a feature of this community and was reinforced as a driving principle at the conference. We welcome people and have time for them. I enjoyed the conference and the loving commitment that Denise brings to Salesian House. And although she may have been excited about being at the footy, I don't think it will be Richmond’s year this year.

Greg Hay
Principal
I am proud of our Boarding Community and the way the students have shown empathy, resilience, caring, patience and understanding toward one another and the staff. I appreciate the support and encouragement shown by the parents of the boarders, and I do enjoy catching up for a chat. Recently we had the pleasure of a visit from two young ladies, Olivia and Jordan, who finished boarding with us six years ago. Olivia's husband Wes and their seven week old baby Charlotte were with Olivia. Jordan and her husband are expecting their first baby in October. It is so special when we share company with ex-boarders and we welcome anyone who has been a boarding student at Sacred Heart Home or Salesian House to come and visit us.

I have recently had the pleasure of attending two fantastic conferences. During the Term 2 holiday break, David and I attended the annual Boarding Australia Conference in Hahndorf. The title of this year’s conference was ‘Fresh Eyes: New Realities’ with themes of community engagement, attracting and growing staff and the development of leadership skills.

I was privileged to accompany five other members of the College to Melbourne to the Salesian Educational Leaders Conference, where the theme was ‘Imagining Don Bosco’s Dream’.

A happy welcoming is a Home Welcoming Family and its about the capacity to build relationships. Challenges open us up to learning. I learnt that leaders determine the culture and values of the systems of organisations which drive behaviour. Leadership is also about engaging students to help and in that way gives them a sense of belonging and missionaries to one another.

The Don Bosco Pedagogy is about enhancing and highlighting positive growth in the young people. Hopefully we can enhance a little of Don Bosco’s pedagogy in the boarders in Salesian House.

We look forward to seeing as many families as possible at our End of Year celebrations on Sunday October 20th.

Denise Arbon
Boarding Coordinator

P.S. Being involved with football in our families for most of my life, a visit to the MCG for the second time was a real treat, but to sit in the 4th level in the Members’ stand at the MCG was fantastic and probably the one and only time this will happen for me, so I was very privileged.
Katrina Johns is a counsellor with a degree in Social Work, employed by Centacare Catholic Family Services Country South Australia (SA) to work across St. Mark’s College. Katrina works Wednesday at the Bosco campus, Thursday at Benedict and Thursday after school at Salesian Boarding House. The counselling office hours are 8.30 to 5.00, however are flexible to assist collaboration with teachers, parents, carers and external organisations with the student’s permission.

Students may seek counselling for a wide range of issues such as worries, stress, lack of motivation, sadness, anger, conflict with others (including friends, teachers and family), grief and loss, study load, bullying, low self-esteem, relationship issues, separation and addictions. School counselling is a confidential service, and counsellors are NOT permitted to repeat content of sessions to anyone without permission unless there is risk to a person’s safety. This will be outlined in the first point of contact with students. Students can make an appointment with the counsellor via the front office in both campuses or direct to Katrina by phone or email or via the house parents. Parents are welcome to contact Katrina direct.

Katrina Johns
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Year 12 Retreat: In the last week of Term 2, all the Year 12 students packed up and headed off to Pt. Hughes for a well-earned retreat from Year 12 life and the stresses it brings. Although we had been slightly informed from previous students about what may occur whilst on retreat, we were not too sure what to expect. Having heard that it is an emotional time for some people I expected a few tears and a few laughs would be shared, but I did not expect that it would have such a large impact on me as it did. The whole retreat was a very emotional, enjoyable and unforgettable time as we all joined together one night spontaneously and had a sing along under the stars. It really emphasised that even though we are all so different we were all still able to come together and enjoy each other’s company. Some of the teachers shared stories of the hardships that they have had to deal with during their lives. It was also incredible listening to them as they opened up to us and this made us respect them even more and see them as people and not just teachers. For me, Retreat was a very rewarding time as I was able to build closer relationships with many, have my eyes opened and escape the stresses of Year 12 life.

This experience will never be forgotten and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to experience it.

Kate Hancock

From the start of last term, Ben and I have been participating in Air Force Cadets. We go to the training compound every Wednesday night and do Drill marching, learn about field activities and how to recognise a plane from its shape. We were issued with our uniforms this term and we are now fully registered cadets. The rules are strict but we enjoy it and can’t wait for our first activity.

Archie Smith
### Year 11 Work Experience

**For my Work Experience Placement this year I went to the Yorke Peninsula Vet Clinic.** During the five days that I was there I had the opportunity to be able to observe consults with the vets, travel to local farms to check out the progress of the injured horses, giving injections to dogs, cats and horses, observing desexing and dental surgeries and help prepare surgeries. On one of the days I was fortunate enough to be able to observe x-rays of a joey that had been caught in a barbed wire fence at one of the farms. The staff and everyone at the Vet Clinic were all very welcoming towards me, they were all willing to show me how the clinic works and what the veterinary industry was like. During the week I got an insight into what it was like to be a Vet and a Vet Nurse, which helped me begin to make decisions for my future. I found that by the end of the week that I was glad that I had chosen to do my Work Experience at the Yorke Peninsula Vet Clinic.  
*Madeline Flink*

**For my Work Experience I went to Port Adelaide Football Club.** I worked there for the week because I am considering a career in either the health or sporting industries. I was lucky enough to experience many things such as seeing how an AFL club functions and meeting most of the players. Before I went I thought that there were only two basic components, the players and the coaching staff, but I soon learnt that there is so much more to do with the running of a professional sporting club. During the week I got to partake in many different roles, each more exciting than the last. I got to travel to different areas with the players and run clinics and seminars for the general public. I was also lucky enough to be involved in one of the trainings with the players, which was a big opportunity to learn new skills and better myself as a football player. I had an amazing week and I would recommend doing work experience there to anyone as there is a wide range of careers and job opportunities to be had.  
*Austin Jacka*

**For my Year 11 work experience I went to the Jamestown Child Care Centre.** I completed five freezing cold, exhausting days of running around outside, trying to teach kids not to eat sand, patching up scraped knees and listening to 4 year olds’ stories. I don’t think I’ve ever been so happy to get up at 7 o’clock to spend a day with some of the most beautiful kids I’ve ever met. After my last day, and saying goodbye to all of the new people I met, I realised I would gladly go back any time because child care is the type of job you have to love to do it and I loved the time I spent at the centre, and all the new things I learnt.  
*Hayley French*

**For my Work Experience I went to Play CC&K, a childcare centre in Geelong, Victoria.** I started at 8.30 each morning and finished at 5.45 each night, so the days were fairly long. It turned out to be a lot more tiring than I expected because you had to be alert at all times, making sure none were fighting or stealing each other’s food (they were pretty sneaky). It was also hard having to lift them or getting down and up off the floor all day, and I was expected to be the young and energetic one of the group of staff! I’ve always had trouble remembering things but learning kids’ names was a whole new challenge, especially when we had different kids each day. Ever since I was young, I have enjoyed playing and working with people younger than me, so going to a childcare centre was a really fun experience (I did enjoy the quiet time during breaks though). Even though I had a lot of fun with the kids, I don’t think I could do it as a full time job, it seems a bit exhausting to me! That being said, I do hope to have a job working with kids, just maybe not for as many hours a day. I recommend this work experience option to those who really love working with young children as it gives a great insight into how child care really is, it was a lot of fun and I’m glad I did it. 😊  
*Eliza Fromm*

**For my Work Experience this year I was at an impasse, I was trying to think of something that could equal or top my previous year’s placement with a barrister. I was still thinking, when my grandparents offered to ask one of their friends if I could work with him on the Matt Byrne Media production of ‘Phantom of the Opera” at the Adelaide Arts Theatre. I thought it was a long shot but to my surprise they were happy to have me.**  
*Even though I had been accepted I still expected to be just an observer, once again to my surprise they made me one of the stage crew and had me moving sets and props around for the practices, and then for the shows. I also had the privilege to be an extra during a few of the live shows, as a stage crew member in the period the show was set. The placement was a great experience and I met so many talented and friendly people, who were willing to teach for those willing to learn, and boy was I willing! *Kane Prior*