From the Principal
I am always struck by how people around Salesian House want to make it a home. They try hard to welcome. There are smiles. I like being greeted by smiles and there is acknowledgment. People say hello. They also play. I am always seeing those younger ones throwing balls in the gym or on the oval. They seem inexhaustible. They seem to like being together - throwing balls. I encourage their play. I always see huddled boarders at the dining room tables sharing laughter, stories and time. I like see young people growing through the excitement of discovering each other. They learn about themselves and their place through the chatter and their shared lives. They grow in confidence. They respond to partnership. They are encouraged to see the best in a person and they live with an optimistic viewpoint. I am always struck by those opportunities. They seem to do well together.

As the year draws to a close I thank parents for trusting us and for their partnership. They trust us when it is easy and when it is difficult. They trust the intuition and authority of the House Parents. They know that their child has to be resilient and courteous, disciplined and just a little bit tough. We share a good partnership. They can see the trust bearing fruit.

I thank the outstanding House Parents Denise, David and Pauline with their clear sense of vocation to their relationships and to their work. I know that our House Parents bring a quality of care and purpose to their efforts. They provide a refuge, an invitation to spirituality, encouragement, and the time for our boarders to do the extra things. I thank them for that.

I thank the teachers for coaching, prayers, time in conversation and support. We just love going over and spending some time with the boarders. It is not hard to turn up.

I thank our Year 12 Boarders for their contribution. The place seems quieter without them. The Year 12 group provided leadership, scholarship, building of community, and the nurturing of friendships. They had an important impact. We wish them well.

Members of Salesian House, those young people who are mad and messy and marvellous, are defined by reverence, politeness and a commitment to kindness. That seems to me to make living in a boarding environment so much more special. I congratulate the group on the success of this year. I am always struck by how they want to make it a home.

Greg Hay
Principal
Salesian House Report

The end of the year is fast approaching. There has been a lot of activity, with students playing sport, finishing assignments, year level exams, drama and music performances, besides their normal routines and activities.

Year 12's have finished their exams. After a very nervous time for some of them, maybe now they can relax and have some fun and enjoy each other’s company.

There have been many small highlights over the past twelve months, but I think the celebration of our End of Year Liturgy and Presentation night was the most enjoyable. This is an evening where our Boarding Community gathers with teaching, executive and admin staff to celebrate the year. Year 12 student Ellen Bunfield was a most deserving recipient of the 2013 Salesian House Award, and along with Morgan Swearse, Jardine Jamieson and Kate Hancock, had her name added to the 5 Year Honour Board.

As this is our last Bumpkin Bulletin for 2013, I would like to thank everyone who contributes to and supports Salesian House, making it an enjoyable and happy home. Shane Fantinel is valued by our boarding community, giving his own time each Wednesday to drive the boarders to the Main Street or Kmart so they can enjoy some free time. Chef Greg continues to accommodate students’ needs, plus extras such as birthday teas, lunches and occasional cooked breakfasts. He has also organised some badminton in the school gym on Wednesday evenings. Thanks also to Tanya for keeping our House clean each day.

Thanks to all the teaching staff who have supported us all in Salesian House, especially Robert Cronin for visiting each Thursday night and tutoring students. Samantha Jacka has represented Salesian House on the College Board and College Counsellor Katrina Johns has provided invaluable support to all of us. We sincerely thank Mr Hay and Mr Czechowski. It is very reassuring to know that Salesian House and its occupants are 100% supported and cared for.

We are grateful for the continued input of our Parish Council members, Shauna Hancock, Mary Hewett and Marie Manners. We farewell Shauna and Mary and thank them for their support over many years and welcome two new members, Anita Rideout and Samantha Jacka.

Pauline, David and I send our sincere wishes to all Year 12 students and families, in the hope of wonderful years ahead. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to an inspirational and positive 2014 for all returning and new students.

Denise Arbon
Boarding Coordinator, Salesian House

During Term 3, I was privileged to undertake Certificate II in Food and Beverage at TAFE SA under lecturer Ms Sarah Pammenter.

Among the things we learnt were how to make and serve mocktails and espresso coffee and how to pour a good beer.

Each Wednesday morning we operated a café, selling coffee and cake.

I hope to use the hospitality skills I have gained in some way in the future.

Will Geddes

Earlier this term I had the opportunity to participate in a shearing/wool handling course held by TAFE shearing instructor Greg Pittaway. The week-long course was held on Nick Greig’s farm just out of Crystal Brook, where we had 200 merino lambs that had to be shorn. Each day we started at 8am and finished at 5pm, having three breaks throughout each day. On the first day we went through all of the Occupational Health and Safety factors that concerned us, and we also learnt how to clean a handpiece and put them together. The first two days of the course were pretty simple as we did the easy parts first such as the ‘belly’ and the ‘long blow’.

Before we were to shear the sheep with the new process that we had learnt, we had to use a pen to mark out the blows and put them together. The first two days of the course were pretty simple as we did the easy parts first such as the ‘belly’ and the ‘long blow’.

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Before we were to shear the sheep with the new process that we had learnt, we had to use a pen to mark out the blows and then practice with a fake handpiece. I found it quite difficult to shear lambs as they were so small and I had quite a way to reach down to be able to shear them. By the end of day four, everyone was able to shear a full sheep independently. It was a fantastic experience for me to be able to learn these new skills and hopefully they will come in handy at home in the future.

Cameron Lindner
This year being our first year at St Mark’s, we were really apprehensive about starting a new school, as well as living at the boarding house. We soon felt at home in the boarding house because everyone was really kind and made us feel welcome. Living with lots of different people can be difficult at times but it’s also a lot of fun to always have someone to talk to. Every Sunday we were very keen and enthusiastic to come back to the boarding house to see everyone and to get on with our studies. The people we have met at the boarding house and at school are great people and will be lifelong friends to us. The boarding house offers lots of opportunities to experience new and exciting activities such as Twilight Netball, ten pin bowling, quiz night, movie nights and cooked lunches. Living in the boarding house gives us the opportunity to work with teachers one on one and build a strong relationship. We look forward to the next two years.

Ellen Bowley and Jessica Manners

After hearing how much Ben & Archie were enjoying Air Force Cadets Sacha and I decided to join. We learn a lot about the things that the RAAF (Royal Australian Air Force) do and we do a lot of cool things, like we go on bivouacs which is where we go away for a weekend and we put our training and teaching into action and show our instructors what we have learnt. There are several ranks in the AAFC. First you are a Cadet, then you can be promoted to a Leading Cadet and so on up the ranks of Cadet Corporal, Cadet Sergeant, Cadet Flight Sergeant, Cadet Warrant Officer and Cadet Under Officer. We learn field craft, we do drill, which is marching and we have camps called bivouacs. Sacha and I were honoured to be invited to attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Memorial Gate. All in all I think we all really enjoy cadets and will continue with it for a long time.

James Boston
Excerpts from the Year 12’s farewell speech:

**Chris:** Unforgettable experience. More than a house, it has become a home.

**Sam:** Loved Greg’s delicious meals, especially the birthday teas.

**Matt:** Fortunate to be part of the Boarding House family. Grateful for Sir’s assistance with his Maths on Thursday nights.

**Wade:** We learned to respect others’ different opinions & accept people’s differences.

**Renee:** Appreciated the help of her beautiful Caregroup teacher Ms Atkinson. Grateful for the privilege of being able to come ‘home’ for study lessons.

**Teagan:** Loved being able to participate in sporting activities, such as twilight netball & basketball. Enjoyed the chats with House parents.

**Morgan:** Appreciated the support of teachers and House parents to help her achieve at her highest level.

**Kate:** Shared some amusing ‘Mr Arbon’ stories from her 5 years at Salesian House.

**Jardine:** Privileged to be a 5 Year boarder. Witnessed many improvements to the Boarding House over those years.

**Ellen:** Hard to say goodbye to her home of the past five years.