Our community gathered again in big numbers to start the year. Our First Night Feast was so well attended but I know there were some with misgivings or nervousness amongst the cordial, cakes and spring rolls. And I know that there were uncertainties amidst all the excitement. However, there was a huge bustle of people gathered with a deep commitment to the welfare of students and a shared hope in what this College could bring. It was exciting.

In all the chatter about the hope of a new year there were still those fires in the Flinders that remained alight. People had left smoke and heat and hard work to be at Salesian House and all of us were concerned about the impact. I heard some stories of heroism and heartbreak. I heard about the changeability of a wind and the fickleness of what was burned. I heard about the community rolling up its sleeves to help one another and the valiant, courageous and wise people on the land surviving with such resilience. This is such an important dimension of life and something we inherit as we welcome boarders. These are young people of courage and care and community.

The opening days of a boarding year included an invitation to Prayer. I can only imagine the shock or horror or fear for some. We have, however, a gentle and invitational process to direct our boarding students into this activity. It becomes creative and interesting as well as sacred and faithful. By the end of the year there is a trust and openness to prayerful activities and times of silence. They will become more saint than sinner I assure you.

I have a very deep sense of the goodness of our Year 12s and the tone that they will set in the Boarding House. They seemed so excited at the start of the year. Actually with the bedrooms they have got I can see why they are excited. Ensuites, private space, high status real estate: they have finally arrived at the top. We look forward to their successful commitment to studies, College life and the leadership needed to ensure the welfare of the boarding community.

What happens now is the wonderful magic of Salesian House. People will be drawn into the goodness, the care and the commitment. They become good and caring and committed—well mostly. It will be a great year.

Mr Greg Hay
Principal
Salesian House Report

After the first few weeks some of the new students were still experiencing some anxiety and homesickness, and working through living to rules and routines and after six weeks those students seem more comfortable but still adjusting to the routines. Some of the current boarders have been very supportive and that is appreciated. Welcome to new boarders, Bernadine, Alex, Jordan, Patrick, Will, Matthew, George, Patrick, James and Jake and welcome also to their families. Already the family support is encouraging, as is the support from the teaching staff with the students' education needs, prayer evening, tutoring and Shane driving the bus.

Congratulations to Tahnee King, Patrick Williams, George Seppelt, Patrick Connell and Jordan King who were chosen as House Leaders. Will Geddes is a very enthusiastic Captain of McNally. Hayley French is an inspirational leader in the House, supportive to all the students in an enthusiastic and caring way. I am pleased to have some supportive parents willing to join our Parent Council Meetings and encourage any other parents who may be willing to join. Perhaps one or two of the fathers would be beneficial as I am sure Greg Hay may feel a bit outnumbered (in a nice way of course!), having to meet with seven women at the Parent Council Meetings.

It was a successful Sports Day. Firstly, congratulations to Eliza Fromm who won the Open Girls Trophy. Eliza is very dedicated to her sport and fitness. A group of people helped out on Sports Day to raise money to go towards some gym equipment for the Boarding Home. Thanks to Pauline Broekx, Jo Seppelt, Katrina Butterick, Chef, and students Alex, Georgia, Archie and James and two of his friends from St Mark’s. We raised $180.00. Great effort! Thank you to parents who attended Sports Day to support the boarders.

Half of our lawn in the courtyard was killed off by some spray last year, but is now showing good signs of recovering. Thanks to George Seppelt for helping with the watering over the past six weeks.

A new rule was implemented last week – on DVD nights all students watching the movie must hand in their mobile phones. I was amazed at how quiet and attentive students were, just watching the movie and not using their phones. It was fantastic and I have decided to continue with this practice. I don't think there will be any disappointed parents with this rule in place. Please let me know of any concerns.

If anyone knows of someone who would like to sell or donate an outdoor setting of table and chairs, or any gym equipment for the Boarding Home, please let me know. Also any ideas for fundraising would be appreciated. We are considering conducting a Mothers Day Raffle and all families would receive a raffle book to sell. There will be more information in the near future.

At present our energy is directed into helping the new students and all students settling into routines and adopting diligent study habits and respect for each other.

Denise Arbon
Boarding Coordinator

School Counselling Service

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 these 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
KJohns@stmarkspirie.catholic.edu.au
kjohns@centacarecdpp.org.au
Work mobile - 0439162764
Centacare office – 86 382 100

Morgan Swearse & Teagan Hewett with 2013 College Dux Tim Richens at the Dux Assembly

Salesian House Parent Council members
Name: James Hepenstall – Yr 11
Home town: Leigh Creek
Favourite food & drink: Hungry Jack’s
Favourite TV program & Movie: The Walking Dead/Sea Patrol
Favourite sports: AFL/Cricket
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
Sporting hero: Brett Burton
The last book I read: ‘Jasper Jones’
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: Steve Irwin, Hitler & Brett Burton
One place I would like to visit: Great Britain
What I think about boarding so far: It’s pretty good
Favourite food & drink: Jam & Iced Coffee
Name: Will Dickson – Yr 8
Home town: Clare
Favourite food & drink: Tacos and Iced Coffee
Favourite TV program: Regular Show
Favourite sport: Footy
AFL Team: North Melbourne
Sporting hero: Brent Harvey
The last book I read: ‘Hunger Games: Catching Fire’
People I would like to invite for dinner: Johnny Depp, Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, Harrison Ford
Places I would like to visit: Alaska
What I think about boarding so far: Great!
Name: Patrick Connell – Yr 8
Home town: Burra
Favourite food & drink: Spag Bog
Favourite sport: Tennis
Sporting hero: Rafael Nadal
AFL Team: Port Power
The last book I read: ‘The Golden Door’
People I would like to invite for dinner: Justin Weather, Liam Neeson, Will Ferrell, John Heder
One place I would like to visit: Maccas
What I think about boarding so far: It’s pretty good.
Name: Leah Ashe – Yr 10
Home town: Willowie
Favourite food & drink: Spag bol, Ginger Beer
Favourite TV program: The Walking Dead
Favourite sport: Figure skating
AFL Team: Port Power
The last book I read was: ‘The fault in our stars’ by John Green
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: My sister Katherine, my nephew Ugo & my brother Anthony
One place I would like to visit: Germany
What I think about boarding so far: It’s like a sleepover every night
Name: Matthew O’Dea – Yr 8
Home town: Yoronga
Favourite food & drink: Pizza & Coke
Favourite sport: Tennis
Sporting hero: Roger Federer
AFL Team: Crows
The last book I read was: ‘The Last Thirteen’
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: Jamie Whincup, Chad Reed, Rob Adelberg
One place I would like to visit: Antarctica
What I think about boarding so far: Good
Name: Jordan King – Yr 8
Home town: Peterborough
Favourite food & drink: Tacos and Coke
Favourite TV series: Jessie
Favourite sport: Basketball
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
The last book I read was: ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Dog Days’
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: Red Foo, Adam Sandler & Whoopie Goldberg
One place I would like to visit: Paris
What I think about boarding so far: Fun & very interesting
Name: Jake Dolphin – Yr 11
Home town: Booborowie
Favourite food & drink: Schnitzel & Coca Cola
Favourite TV program: Big Bang Theory
Favourite sport: Hockey
The last book I read was: Chris Ryan: Black Out
One place I would like to visit: Tokyo
What I think about boarding so far: I have really enjoyed it; It’s good to get away from home for a while.
Name: Bernie Butterick – Yr 8
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food & drink: Chicken caesar salad & Iced Coffee
Favourite TV program: McLeod’s Daughters
Favourite sports: Netball/Athletics
Sporting hero: Natalie von Bertouch
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
The last book I read was: ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days’
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: Danielle, Elle & Riley
One place I would like to visit: One of the Kidman’s stations, ‘Durham Downs’
What I think about boarding so far: I like the people who I share my room with & I like the food we are given
Name: Alex Gove – Yr 8
Home town: Burra
Favourite food & drink: Roast lamb & Raspberry
Favourite TV program: X Factor
Favourite sport: Basketball
AFL Team: Port Power
The last book I read was: ‘Once’
Two people I would like to invite for dinner: Adele, Stevie Wonder
One place I would like to visit: Fiji
What I think about boarding so far: It’s ok.
Name: Patrick Williams – Yr 10
Home town: Jamestown
Favourite food & drink: Chocolate & Lemon squash
Favourite sport: Tennis
Sporting hero: Andrew McLeod
AFL Team: Adelaide Crows
The last book I read was: ‘Deadly Unna’
Three people I would like to invite for dinner: Pope Francis, Lleyton Hewett & Mark Ricciuto
One place I would like to visit: London
What I think about boarding so far: I have really enjoyed boarding so far as everyone has been friendly & welcoming towards me & it is such a homely environment.

Our New Boarders

Bernie, George & Alex with School Counsellor Katrina Johns