

SALESIAN HOUSE

Term 1, April 2022

newsletter



**ST MARK'S
COLLEGE**

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Dr Hewson commissioned Issy as the Salesian House Captain for 2022

One of the things that attracted me to St Mark's College was its boarding community. Many years ago, I worked in a boarding school in the UK, and more recently as Principal of St Joseph's School in Port Lincoln which also has a boarding facility. I appreciate how special boarding is as a service to students and families, and the importance of providing an environment that is safe and nurturing as a home away from home, enabling students to access all the opportunities that we offer as a Catholic school.

Term 1 has presented us with many challenges in navigating COVID restrictions to ensure the ongoing safety of students, and I'm delighted that some of the more uncomfortable impositions, such as surveillance testing, have been removed. Despite the necessary regulations, I know that Denise, David and Jane have continued to provide a high level of care and support and endeavoured to make the environment as normal as possible. I am sure we are not out of the woods with restrictions yet, with a new COVID variant already circulating and proving to be even more transmissible, but I would like to express my thanks for the understanding and patience of students and parents. You can be confident that we have the best interests of the students at heart in all that we do.

Whilst it was not possible at the beginning of Term 1 to hold our traditional welcome liturgy and BBQ, we did manage to gather all boarding students together in the Chapel to celebrate Mass with Fr Jimmy and to present Isabelle Bray with her Captain's badge. We were able to share a celebratory BBQ with students outside following the Mass, and I look forward to more such opportunities as the year unfolds. As restrictions stand now, and given the current and predicted increase in COVID cases in the state,

we have regretfully decided to postpone the boarding family liturgy and BBQ again until later in the year.

As a new Principal, I am excited by the opportunity to facilitate consultation this year to contribute to a new Strategic Plan and Master Plan for St Mark's College. As part of this process, I will be seeking your input as students and parents in Salesian House on how we can improve the boarding facility and boarding experience for students. Your contribution will be invaluable, so please participate and offer your suggestions when the time comes.

I am humbled and proud to be leading St Mark's College and I look forward to working in partnership with you to provide the care and support needed to empower students to be happy and successful.

Yours in faith

Sandra

Dr Sandra Hewson, **Principal**



The Lenten prayer table at Salesian House

Salesian House Report

Salesian House staff and students welcome our new Principal Dr Sandra Hewson and thank her for the support given to us during this unusual start to the school year. Restrictions have meant that all staff and students have had to wear masks in common areas, social distance in certain areas and separate into two cohorts for nightly meals. For the majority of the term we all had to complete rapid antigen tests three times a week, and parents were not allowed to enter Salesian House until only last week. My job was also to enter daily health documentation for staff and students. Fortunately, some of these tasks have ceased, however others continue. Let's hope Term 2 may not be as wearing on us all.

We have been excited to welcome seven new students to Salesian House this year:

- Cooper (Year 8)
- Alexandra and Danielle (Year 9)
- Sophie, Max and Dana (Year 10)
- Ian (Year 12)

We hope their first term has been encouraging and enjoyable.

Mrs Jane Dickeson dedicates her two hours each day to organising activities, transporting students to the main street, Kmart on Wednesday's and at other times to appointments. Hopefully Term 2 might allow more excursions to different venues. The students get most excited for their outing to KMart and the Main Street, or should I say, McDonald's and KFC.

Mrs Lisa Manners dedicates her time to administration for Salesian House and farewells students on Fridays, as well as care during school hours.

Thank you to our supportive school counsellors (Ashley and Danae) who visit Tuesday afternoons and will support Tuesday to Friday mornings before school.

Thank you to Dr Hewson who organised our online teams meeting for Parent Council and thank you to the parents who joined us. Hopefully a few more parents may join for our Term 2 meeting which has been rescheduled for Sunday 29 May at 7.30pm.

The students continue to be able to order lunch on Tuesday and Thursday and thanks to Chef Ben he continues to cook birthday teas, with schnitzels and yiros being the most popular meals chosen on these occasions.

Hopefully all of our students and their families enjoy their break and Easter weekend.

Denise

Mrs Denise Arbon, **House Coordinator**

Sophie takes to the water for 'Ski for Life'

On the March long weekend, I participated in 'Ski for Life' along with ten other team members. 'Ski for Life' is an annual event where 35 boats and around 400 people skied from Murray Bridge to Renmark, raising money for mental health and suicide prevention. My team 'Rooski' raised around \$56,000 while the whole event raised \$253,000. We raised money by sharing our fundraising page on social media which went viral in the mining and farming community. Over the three days, our team skied an amazing 456km, my team rotated while I made the decision to ski the whole way. We were supported by our road crew who travelled from stop to stop to bring along all our belongings. Participating in 'Ski For Life' was an amazing experience all for a worthy cause and I hope to be involved in the event again next year.



Parent Representative on the College Board

The College is seeking a Parent Representative from our Boarding community for the St Mark's College Board. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact the Principal.

We acknowledge our finishing Parent Representative Chris Malycha and we thank her for her contribution both to our Salesian House community and the College Board.



Afternoon activities with Mrs Dickeson



Alan and Jay with the new chickens at McNally Farm



Dana and Codi enjoy a game of cards after school



Claire was awarded the U16 Female Individual Champion at Bosco Athletics Day, and broke the shotput record with a throw of 9.95m



We celebrated the birthdays of Codi, Max, Madi, Luke and Alan



Zac participating in the Crutching course at McNally Farm



Bridie and Claire baking up a storm after school



Charlee was commissioned as one of the Bosco House Captains at our Leadership Commissioning Liturgy



Basketball in the Sports Centre after school



Emily competing in the triple jump at Bosco Athletics Day



Chloe led her Rite Journey class (including Alex) at the Departure Ceremony



Alex participating in the Crutching course at McNally Farm