



Term Three 2017

Principal's Address:

Dear Parents & Carers,

Late last term, Head of Senior School, Mr David Toghill, quite proudly (and rightly so) shared the feedback he received from his reflection piece written for the newsletter. It was a terrific article and I, like many others really enjoyed his personal insights. At the end of Semester One I also took great delight in reading the student reflection report comments as it always provides me with plenty of food for thought.

In society today, all of us are encouraged to reflect on our lives in the hope of improving the way we do things. Unfortunately, finding the time can be difficult. During the last school holidays my family took the opportunity to reflect on some recent and unexpected challenges and despite being on top of these issues we felt the timing was right to leave St Peter's. The last seven years has proven to be an incredible experience, but obviously our situation over the last two and a half years did change. However, we managed this comfortably and the family firmly agrees that this was the right decision because stability was required and there were many important projects that needed to be completed.

As a family we have made the most of these circumstances and have learned the importance of grit, patience and humility. However, the time is now right for me to return home. The expanded College Leadership Team continue to build capacity amongst themselves and each other and all of them have driven a myriad of successful transformational projects which have helped us to benefit the students and families of St Peter's. They can all manage change. I was invited to discuss just some of these at last Thursday's Board meeting and reflecting openly on how much all of us have achieved was quite emotional, yet deeply satisfying. I am extremely proud of what our community has achieved in this time, building upon our firmly entrenched traditions and Christian values. We have all faced numerous changes, but as a community we have responded positively. This acceptance reinforces that now is the right time for my departure because the community has never been better equipped to accept and adapt to change. The decision was made now, so everyone has time to ensure the transition can be as seamless and as comfortable as possible and also to ensure the sustainability of the many projects presently in their infancy.

Undoubtedly time for further reflection will soon present itself, as will the opportunity to share some favourite memories and experiences with my friends and key supporters, but there is still lots and lots of work to do and so very much to look forward to. Personally, I am now totally focused on enjoying my last semester here at St Peter's and making the most of every second...

With blessings and kindest regards,

Graeme Hincksman
Principal

STEAM Day 2017

On Thursday, 1 June 2017 students from Years K-8 participated in the inaugural St Peter's STEAM Day. STEAM refers to the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics into an interdisciplinary teaching approach, rather than discrete and separate. When combined, STEAM becomes more relevant to real world applications and problem solving.

St Peter's STEAM Day incorporated vertical streaming in the four houses, creating 4 groups of very diverse ages, abilities, viewpoints, mindsets, emotional and academic maturity. Each house, under the guidance of staff, visited four 'stations' over the 4 hours.

Mr Fletcher explored the concept of propulsion, force, physics, travel and space with the rocket station. Luckily the day was warm because water rockets were used! Here, students learnt about the correlation between action and reaction, trajectory and direction (how to aim to ensure minimum soakage!).

Mr Fuller eggsplored the science behind collision, protection and what impact 'art' can have on saving an egg from a three metre fall onto concrete. In smaller groups, students used limited supplies of newspaper, textas, straws, tape, shopping bags, tape and cotton balls to design, construct and then test ways to save an egg. Despite the very limited time frame and resources, many groups saved their egg from cracking.

Mrs Goering and Mrs Clark oversaw dozens of mini experiments in the Science labs. Students were able to microscope, magnetise, catapult, make slime, experiment with liquids of different densities, investigate surface tension, compete to create the largest bubble, and construct 'lava' lamps. The students found their inner scientist and enjoyed a lot of messy, yet meaningful, fun!

Our final station was the planetarium, organised by Mrs Wicks. This inflatable dome was set up in the Languages Centre and students entered to be immersed in a movie projected onto the walls of the dome, creating the feeling of being in outer space. Our students explored a range of constellations and how to identify them in the night sky. We were also taught how sailors of old used the stars to navigate while out at sea. Students learned about the first dog and space and how the sun will eventually come to an end in millions of years time.

Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive, with the only negative being "it should have been all day". We look forward to STEAM Day 2018.



100 Years of Music in 100 Minutes

Well another production is done and dusted and what an incredible journey it was. We have been overwhelmed with the community reaction to our show and we are so encouraged by all of the wonderful feedback we have received about the performances. Thanks a million to each and every staff member, student and community member that came along and supported the production.

It is always a great feeling to watch months of hard work pay off and I was so incredibly in awe of what our students presented. This was the youngest cast we have ever had and it must be said, that each and every one of them were an absolute pleasure to take on this journey. We are so lucky to have such wonderful students and such supportive families in our College community and I sincerely thank all of the parents and caregivers who lose part of their lives for six months while their children embark on this time consuming rollercoaster ride.

I am so very proud of every single member of our cast and crew and I would like to make particularly thanks to the following very special guests: Mr Peter Forsyth, Mr Russell Fletcher, Yannick Halem and Tom Walsh for their immeasurable contributions and cameo performances. Miss Emma Davies for her work preparing our wonderful junior school ensemble. Special mention also to Mrs Chris Forsyth, Lorraine and Andrew Nicholls for their design and construction of our wonderful sets. And final thanks must go to Mr John Fraser and Mrs Jo Faletoesse who worked tirelessly and with such dedication on this production from start to finish. Without them, the show would quite simply, not have happened.

To the cast and crew. We did it! Do not underestimate what you have achieved. You have been part of something very special and I sincerely hope, that in years to come, you can reflect back on this production as one of the fondest memories of your school life. Well done!

Mr Freeman (Head of Music/Year 12 Pastoral Care Coordinator)



2017 Mission Trip

Stories. A lot of stories. Since the Mission trip began 10 years ago, 85 different students have made 141 trips from the south coast of NSW, across the Cape from Cairns, to the remote community of Kowanyama; place of many waters. Needless to say, the maths indicate that a significant number of those students have made multiple journeys. In the story of the St Peter's Mission trip there are pivotal people without whom the experience would not be possible. Of course, the participating students and their supportive families. Mr Tony Young has dedicated 10 years to this trip and says himself that Kowanyama has become a large part of his life. There are Father Wayne and Deacon Valmai who faithfully serve God and the community of Kowanyama, welcoming and encouraging us each year. There is Kowanyama State School and staff that integrate the initiative and willingness of our students into their daily and classroom activities. Then there is the Kowanyama community. The children and their families who accept and welcome us; teaching us and inviting us to share in their culture and home.



Without dismissing those that have made this pilgrimage before, allow me to introduce the participating members for 2017. They were Paris Backo, Tehlia Beattie, Kimmy Broad, Natasha Doberer, Jasmin Fuller, Manon Halemai, Elizabeth Halsey, Kelly Howes, Ted Humphrys, Sally Kennedy, Lara MacKay, Rusty Millar, Zoe Mirtschin, Lachlan Nicholls, Isabella Phin, Sophia Seimenis, Scott Suter, Elise Toyer and Aymee Wise. Each student added their unique dynamic to the group and made the Mission Trip a reality for the 10th consecutive year. Eight months of preparation and with significant sacrifice in time and finances, the group departed under the leadership of Mr Tony Young for his 10th and final time on Friday, 7 July. Mrs Maureen Kleeman made her 6th trip, Bec Meagher, her 3rd (her first as an adult helper) and I was fortunate to join for the first time. We must also give thanks to Mr Rhys Nicholls who wrote new drama scripts and spent time ensuring we were at performance standard before departing. The original dramas held the children's attention and facilitated participation from everyone.



To celebrate our 10th year, for the first time the group made a visit to Yarrabah; a mission community 45 minutes to the south of Cairns. This is the home of the NAIDOC awards artist of the year for 2017, Elverina Johnson. We decided to go for a walk and were fortunate to have two people come to introduce themselves to us. One was Councillor Nadine Cannon. She was a friendly character who said she would try to get in contact with Elverina and would be sure to bring her grandchildren down to meet us where we planned to eat lunch on the waterfront side of St Alban's

Anglican Church. Before buying lunch, a most eloquent gentleman enquired as to where we had travelled from, only to reveal that he was Matthew Noble, the grandson of Rev James Noble, the first Aboriginal man ordained in the Anglican Church. Matthew and Nadine imparted to us some of the history of Yarrabah and made us feel most welcome. Of course, we were repeatedly advised that "you should have been here yesterday". Nadine's face filled with joy as she told us how the children had joined in traditional dance at their NAIDOC celebrations the night before and that their ancestors would be smiling to see the pride that the children hold in their identity. We didn't meet Elverina, but ventured out to the shipwreck of the Derwent, played football, games, and cracked coconuts with Nadine's grandchildren and many other local children. It was an amazing impromptu day that

brought blessings beyond measure. To be able to tell Father Wayne we had visited his town and met some of his friends and relatives was special.

On Sunday, 9 July, our group divided to make the trip across Cape York. Half made the journey with Luke (the groundsman/bus driver at Kowanyama State School) in the bus. I was fortunate to have been on the bus to enjoy the changes in landscape, appreciate the harshness of the land we were travelling through and begin to fathom the remoteness of the place we were visiting. The others flew and set up our home for the next five days in the home economics building in the school grounds. The conditions were comfortable but void of any personal space. The students must be commended for the way they managed these conditions on a practical and emotional level.

Word must have travelled quickly that “the purple shirts” were back in town as local students made a shy appearance at our doorstep the next morning. The St Peter’s students integrated themselves into the playground and an exciting atmosphere assisted the return to school and classes. During our stay students were allocated to a teacher for the week. Each day until 1.30pm, they became valuable members of their classes, assisting in the lessons and developing relationships with the children that extended into the playground and after school activities. The group that congregated at our steps each morning seemed to grow and arrive earlier each morning of our stay. Kowanyama School staff spoke very highly of our students and were most appreciative of the maturity and initiative they displayed as they actively assisted in their classes. Sandy, the Principal, commented several times about the positive atmosphere in the playground and how she wished we could visit at the start of every term!

At the end of the school day our group offered face painting, games, skipping and songs on the grounds of the Anglican Church. This was a time of different learning. Interactive dramas were performed that encouraged sharing ideas about what is important in our world. Often this was followed by a walk by Magnificent Creek (aptly named). This provided time for the local children to teach us about their home and culture. Spotting crocs and how to know when they are under the water, eating berries, finding bird nests and educating us about the charging capabilities of cattle. The children’s stories were filled with recent holiday experiences of hunting for turtles and pigs, fishing for barramundi and visiting their homelands. I encourage you to engage with our students and give opportunity for them to communicate the moments that were impactful for them.

A significant conviction in our pilgrimage each year is to offer support to the Anglican church in Kowanyama. Father Wayne and Deacon Valmai welcomed us to their church and community and then to their home. One evening we shared a fire in their backyard with elder Priscilla Major and her sister Shirley. To hear the stories of two women raised so differently; one by her people and the other in a dormitory, was confronting yet invaluable. Father Wayne and Deacon Valmai also demonstrated their trust in our group by sharing their personal stories and exposing their own vulnerabilities and the way God has worked in and through their lives. On our last day with them, we had the pleasure of presenting them with a cheque for \$3000 raised in our community as a gift for them to use in their work with the community of Kowanyama. Father Wayne shared with us that they never expect financial support but always gain tremendous encouragement by the group making the trip each year. He added however that he is not sure they could have done the work they have without the funds “the purple shirts” have donated over the past 10 years. Their gratitude was expressed as he presented each member with a gift of the new Kowanyama NAIDOC polo shirts. This seemed an extravagant gesture given the context that had just been shared, but the joy in Father Wayne and Deacon Valmai was obvious as they thanked each of the Mission team individually and to deny them this would have been unthinkable.

There are many more stories. Each member will have their own story. Listed here is just a snapshot of the experience. I consider myself privileged to have had the opportunity to be part of the team this year. My story has been enriched beyond measure.



Mr Young has always led the group with an emphasis on listening and learning. My hope is that we foster this approach now back on the South Coast again. If what we have heard and learned about people, Aboriginal culture and history, the current challenges in remote communities, and ourselves, can be granted space and nurtured, then I am confident that part of Kowanyama will flow and bring life just as its many waters do to the arid landscape of far North Queensland.

Ms Sascha Peard



Sports Report

Athletics Carnival:

The College held its annual athletics carnival during Week 1 of Term 3. The College oval was transformed into an athletics track and the scene was set for a fantastic day of competition. I would like to congratulate Roxburgh House who were the overall 2017 College Athletics Champions. A fantastic effort by all students in this house, but also CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who participated on the day! Whether you were involved in field or track events, it was great to see so much enthusiasm! Parents have received a comprehensive results package via Parent Paperwork which highlights Age Champions, College records & SASSA athletes.

Please note the following dates for SASSA Sports this term:

- Senior School SASSA Athletics Carnival (Beaton Park, Wollongong) Wednesday, 2 August 2017.
- Junior School SASSA Athletics Carnival (Beaton Park, Wollongong) Friday, 18 August 2017.

PDHPE News:

Jump Rope for Heart:

Year 8 students have commenced a new PDHPE based initiative this term. Year 8 will be completing a unit that works collaboratively with the National Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program. The National Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart Program is an exciting and non-competitive program which encourages children to become more active through skipping, learning new skills and raising vital funds for heart research and community health programs.



Skipping is an excellent way for children to keep fit and healthy. Over the next few weeks, your child(ren) will be learning a range of fun skipping skills and new tricks. We will emphasise the importance of regular physical activity and the importance of healthy eating for a healthy lifestyle. With Heart Disease affecting $\frac{3}{4}$ families across Australia, the PDHPE department see this as an exciting opportunity to promote health, having fun and being active.

Year 11 PDHPE First Aid Accreditation:



Year 11 students are about to begin their final curriculum based topic in the Preliminary year on First Aid. To coincide with the content they are learning in class, students will have the opportunity to complete their First Aid Accreditation process through Surf Life Saving Australia. The PDHPE department see this as an exciting opportunity for the students to be able to implement their knowledge from the curriculum and apply it practically to receive a national qualification.

Mr Luke Adams
Head of Sport and PDHPE

College Athletics Carnival - Tuesday 25 July 2017



