



ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE **BOARDING BUZZ**

EDITION 4 | JULY 2019

FROM THE **HEAD OF BOARDING**

Dear parents, friends and carers,

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: BOARDING

Plans are taking place for further professional development of our staff. We recognize that looking after boarders is a very unique task and certain skills are required for that work. We are fortunate in that we have a very dedicated staff who do great work with our boys however it is important that we give them the opportunities to develop professional skills as one would in any profession.



At the start of the term our staff attended a PD on Cultural Awareness delivered by Peter Bartlett, the head of our Indigenous Education Unit. This was followed by training in the new boarding software REACH. We mentioned in our earlier newsletter that REACH was coming to St Brendan's. Much work has been done to get the software and hardware ready and finally we will roll-out Reach next term for roll marking. After we have discovered any potential glitches and have familiarized ourselves with the system we will move towards leave being applied for on the REACH system. This will simplify our leave procedures greatly and at the same time provide a better snapshot on who is on site and who is on leave. Parents and carers will eventually be able to apply for leave on their computers and phones. We will let you know when we are ready for this.

LEAVE

We are still having a few problems with boys not being signed out when they are going on leave. LEAVE should be pre-arranged. A simple phone call to the boarding office preferably earlier in the week is most helpful. That way we have a good idea of who is in for catering purposes and also for the hiring of buses. We understand that leave is sometimes arranged later. Please remember that as part of our Duty of Care, all boys going on leave must be signed out in the Residential Office. If a non-parent is signing the boy out, then it is important to let the host know that they need to sign the boys out. Many thanks for your support. Please note that we don't approve leave after 4pm on a Saturday afternoon unless a parent/guardian is picking the boy up.

RECREATION PROGRAM

Our Rec Program is going well and Mr Gorrie has arranged a good variety of activities for the boys throughout the term. This term there will be a strong focus on school rugby league so that will take up a great deal of time for many boys. Throughout this newsletter you will see many photos of the boys enjoying some of the activities we have provided throughout the term.

With every best wish. God bless.

FR PIUS JONES



ISOLATED CHILDREN PARENTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Mr Rob Corboy, Mrs Kylie Hedges and Fr Pius spent a few days in Charters Towers attending the Isolated Childrens Parents Association in June. This important body plays a key role in lobbying government for support of isolated children and their educational needs. ICPA works hard to seek funding for isolated children in all sorts of areas, from travel, internet connection, resources for local schools and funding for students travelling away from home in order to get an education.

Much of the time was spent listening to motions being passed. In other sessions parents talked about the

hardships they have been facing, and certainly the drought has been an important factor in so many ways. It was insightful listening to families talking about their particular struggles and issues.

Some of the time was spent catching up with staff from other boarding schools and listening to their ideas and challenges. Many of those staff we have met at various conferences. ICPA is a valuable source of funding for some of our families. If you would like to know more about funding availability contact Mrs Kylie Hedges, our Enrolments Officer, or Mrs Sherene Wright in Finance, both of whom know a great deal about ICPA funding for isolated students.

ROCKHAMPTON BMX TRACK: SKILLS & FUN!

Our Year 7's were the first group to test out the BMX track in Rockhampton in June. At 10am on a Saturday morning, a bus load of boys headed off to test their skills. With tyres pumped up to 50psi and the weather pleasantly cool, the boys burned off some energy without burning themselves and the tyres.

Some of the boys had never been on a BMX track before so it was certainly challenging and fun for them. We held a number of races with Mr Gorrie filming the boys and Fr Pius acting as the judge. The two hours went very quickly and at the end of it the boys were all desperate for a frozen coke!

Our Grade 8's and 9's tested their skills on the same weekend with great enthusiasm and perhaps with a little over confidence! Further visits will be made to the BMX track offering all year groups the opportunity to test their skills.



KEPPEL ISLAND: OUR BACKYARD!

SBC teacher and boarding supervisor, Mr Daniel Caldwell, took a group of boys over to Keppel Island for the day as winter arrived. The day involved some walking, swimming, snorkelling, topped off with the local fish and chips. It was a great opportunity for the boys to experience one of our local islands on a day with idyllic weather.



EDDIES ECO WARRIORS: STRONG HISTORY

The Eco Warriors celebrated Reconciliation Day in Term 2 at a ceremony and walk through the College grounds where the history of the Eco Warriors project was outlined under the guidance of Ms Deb Pyers. Flags were carried on the walk, with the support of special guests who had been associated with the project over many years. We all enjoyed afternoon tea together at the end of the speeches.

The Eco Warriors are a reconciliation group with the view of indigenous and non-indigenous boys working together on ecology projects at the College. Some of the projects have included planting native trees, clearing areas where invading species have taken over, and the making and placing of tree boxes for possums, building traditional houses, and making a yarning circle and fire pit.

In Term 2, some boys went over to Keppel Island with Ms Pyers for a clean-up project and in coming months our group will be allocated a local beach area with a view to ensuring it is kept clean. Many thanks to Ms Deb Pyers for the wonderful and inspirational work that she does, not only with Eco Warriors, but in so many other ways in which she cares for our boys.



DARWIN & KATHERINE

Mr Rob Corboy and Fr Pius travelled to Darwin to meet with current families after the ICPA conference in June; a great opportunity to catch up with current, past and prospective families a long way from the beaches of Yeppoon!

Ron and Bernadette met us at the Coffee Club Darwin along with Lleyton Ogilvie's grandmother Marcia, and then we had a pleasant drive to Katherine via the Adelaide River, meeting up with Jack Bowman's parents, David and Linda at the Camp Draft. In Katherine we were welcomed by Gary and Michelle Daforno, William's parents at the Katherine Golf Club, an ideal location to catch up with current and prospective families. Our sincere thanks to Gary and Michelle for organising a great night.



RUGBY LEAGUE: CLUB & SCHOOL



Local club football has drawn to a close with Rockhampton & District Grand Finals taking place in the last week of Term 2. Some boys had their travel delayed for holidays in order to make their mark in the finals. Club football has been a mammoth undertaking at SBC - 138 boarders playing Club Rugby League for Emu Park, Yeppoon Seagulls, Cap Coast Brothers and Rockhampton Tigers every Friday night. Across Capricorn Coast Brothers and Yeppoon Seagulls, the Yeppoon region took out every age group from U13 to U18 in the Rocky District in 2019 - with our boys contributing strongly to these achievements.

I would like to thank all clubs, day parents and supporters for their assistance in getting players to training and games. Without their support the boys wouldn't be able to have this great opportunity. At the end of Term 2, many boys trialled for spots in school rugby league teams for Term 3. We look forward to seeing them playing in the green and gold jerseys.



WALLACE: DEDICATED YEAR 7 DORM 2020

The recommissioning and renovation of Wallace dorm is underway, as a dedicated Year 7 Residence in 2020. A redesign of the building and its living, study and relaxation spaces will occur before we welcome our newest boarders in 2020, recognising that our Year 7 students have particular needs. We want the space to be a warm and inviting space suitable for our youngest students. Accommodation areas are being completely refurbished, a parent/guest area in the common room is planned, and a redesign of the common areas will take place. The following images are an initial snapshot of planning underway for this space.



CAUSEWAY LAKE: A HIT WITH OUR BOYS!

As part of the Recreation Program, our boys had the opportunity to travel to the Causeway for the May day long weekend, hiring boats, canoes, stand up paddles and paddle boats. Some of the boys went fishing whilst others took the opportunity to have a swim. The local shop was a big hit with boys wandering up and down to treat themselves with something different. The Causeway proved to be a relaxing day off for the boys getting them out and about on the Coast.



PARADISE LAGOONS CAMPDRAFT!

As an optional excursion, some of our boys went along to the famous Paradise Lagoons Camp Draft near Rockhampton with Fr Pius and Mr Trent Gorrie in Term 2. It was good to see the skills displayed by the young men and women in the arena. Some of our country boys referred to the day as 'feeling like they were back at home' and for others it was their first Camp Draft experience.



LONGREACH & BARCOLDINE: SBC COUNTRY VISIT

Fr Pius and Mr Trent Gorrie travelled to the Longreach Show in May to showcase the College and catch up with families and Old Boys, both from the recent past and back to the early days of the school. After spending the day at the show we moved on to Barcaldine where we had dinner with some of our families from that region. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and to be able to talk about what is happening at St. Brendan's.



YR 12 COMMON ROOM: NEW BILLIARD TABLE

At the start of the term the Year 12 Common Room in Eddie Rice Residence had a new billiard table set up. First to make the break was College Captain Joe O'Brien in competition with Brent Anderson. This was part of the upgrade of their Common Room, with a fridge moved into that area, tea and coffee making facilities and biscuits provided.

OUT & ABOUT & AROUND THE GROUNDS



STONEY CREEK, BYFIELD: CAMPING FUN!



STONEY CREEK, BYFIELD: CAMPING FUN!



BMX BANDITS: ROCKY BMX TRACK!



FLYING HIGH AND DIGGING DEEP IN SPORT!



Visit our website - <https://www.stbrendans.qld.edu.au/extra-curricular/> or click on the button below to review the new extra-curricular program flyer - a snapshot of what is available for the boys at SBC!



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