



ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE **BOARDING BUZZ**

EDITION 3 | MAY 2019

DON'T MISS OUR COUNTRY DINNERS IN 2019!

We invite you to catch up with our SBC Leadership and Boarding team at a regional show or SBC Country Dinner in 2019 so we can discuss your's son's boarding journey and keep you up-to-date on activities at the college. Visit the Boarding section of our website to find out more, or click the link below!



FROM THE HEAD OF BOARDING

The first term went so quickly we hardly knew that it had been and gone! Being new to St Brendan's has been a journey of discovery. Boarding schools have many similarities, this being the fifth mainstream boarding school that I have worked in. So what's different about St Brendan's College? Certainly the overall welcoming and good spirit one experiences here: from the friendliness of the front office staff to the boys, who come from a very wide range of places, and their families, to the staff who teach and care for them. St Brendan's. There is a spirit here that has been built up over many generations and I feel honoured to be a part of it.

I have been fortunate to already have met many of you, either through community visits or when you have called into the Residential Office. I look forward to meeting many more of you. We have a new after hours Residential Office, located next door to the Dining Hall. Please feel welcome to call in and say hello. Tea and Coffee are always available.

A number of parents have asked me why I came to St Brendan's. Over the years I have had a number of opportunities to visit St Brendan's and was always impressed with the spirit of the place. About three years ago, Mr Corboy and I visited St Brendan's to look at buildings. Whilst looking at the Manual Arts building, which is most impressive, a student came up to us and welcomed us to St Brendan's. That impressed me greatly and I thought to myself at the time that if a school can create that sort of spirit then it is a place worth belonging to.

My life's work has been in education, both in the classroom and in boarding. Having been a boarder myself and having loved that experience, I am passionate about boarding. I strongly believe that boarding is more than just a place to go to because a young person's home is isolated and they have to go away to study. I believe that best boarding is value adding to the education experience, that is, that it must be a place where young people are safe, happy and engaged.

Safety is a big priority. Safety means many things: being safe when involved in activities, active supervision in the residences, being safe from bullying. It is that sense of 'feeling' safe. Only when a boarder feels safe can he feel happy. If a boarder is not happy they are not going to learn and they won't engage in all the college offers. Boys also have a responsibility in this area. They too need to engage in their own safety by being where they are meant to be, and simply by being trustworthy. When a boarder is safe and happy it gives them the freedom to engage in all that the school has to offer: their education, making friendships, seeking help when needed, learning and studying, life skills and recreational activities, sport and the religious life of the school, simply to name a few.

Our boys come from far and wide and that is the beauty of the place. Boys have opportunities to make life-long friendships, whether it be with a boy from out west, or from the NT, or Brisbane or the Torres Strait, or anywhere in between, we see the spirit of 'Brendan's Brothers' developing each day.

Our newsletter is an effort to build a sense of St Brendan's community. Always remember, we welcome your thoughts, concerns, praises and criticisms – it is only through them that we can grow and improve, that we can keep fresh with new ideas, and your part is essential. It is a joint venture between the college and our families. So please do keep in touch, even if it just to check how your son is getting along. And always feel welcome to visit.

With every best wish. God bless.

FR PIUS JONES

GET IN TOUCH:

Boarding Office: (07) 4939 9450

Head of Boarding, Fr Pius Jones - jonesp@sbc.qld.edu.au

Boarding Secretary: boarding@sbc.qld.edu.au

School Office: (07) 4939 9300

Website: www.stbrendans.qld.edu.au

SCHOOL TV REPORT: SMARTPHONES IN SCHOOLS

The college has a valuable subscription to SchoolTV giving our families access to leading reports and advice on health and wellbeing experts to help parents navigate the world today.

We encourage you to listen to the report on smartphones in schools, which can be found on our website under Pastoral Approach or click on the SchoolTV link below. We take this opportunity to update you on our stance on mobile phones in boarding and at school. While they are a necessary part of life and an important communication tool - download the SBC App for up-to-date notices on College life - they also create some concern.



Boarding: In Fitzpatrick Year 7 and 8, all mobile phones are handed in by students at night and returned after breakfast, while our older students are given more freedom to manage their mobile phone use.

School: At school there is an expectation all phones are out of sight and not used in class time, with repercussions for those who disobey school policy. The College also has taken advantage of Family Zone, whereby families can take advantage of a discounted subscription to manage times and usage of your son's device.

BOARDING STAFFING INCREASED FOR 2019

As has been communicated, in 2019 we have welcomed a number of new boarding staff to our family. These include a new full-time Boarding Recreation Officer, Mr Trent Gorrie (also an SBC Old Boy), new House Parents David and Jan Finch in McKennariey, House Parents Damien and Jess McLuskie in Fitzpatrick, as well as a significant number of new boarding supervisors; Scott and Bindi Minto, Matthew Mulholland, Lloyd DuToit and Cameron Slabbard (all the way from South Africa on exchange).

We welcome our most recent boarding supervisors for Term 2 - Eddy and Faye Pettybourne and their little daughter Isla.

Eddy will be working both in the day school and in boarding. During the day he is working as an Indigenous Liaison Officer and in boarding he is working as a Residential Supervisor. Faye will also be doing some residential work. Eddy loves his football and continues his contract with Capras. He has been playing professionally for 10 years. Eddy's interests are family, footy and travel. He loves mentoring kids and wants to really make a difference in their lives. Faye is a teacher, loves singing, and actually had the opportunity to perform on XFactor.

We look forward to the contribution both Eddy and Faye can make to our college, as well as our dedicated boarding team across the board. Our aim is for a diversity of caring and committed staff to enrich the lives of your sons as they are educated; grow and mature into fine young men while at St Brendan's College.



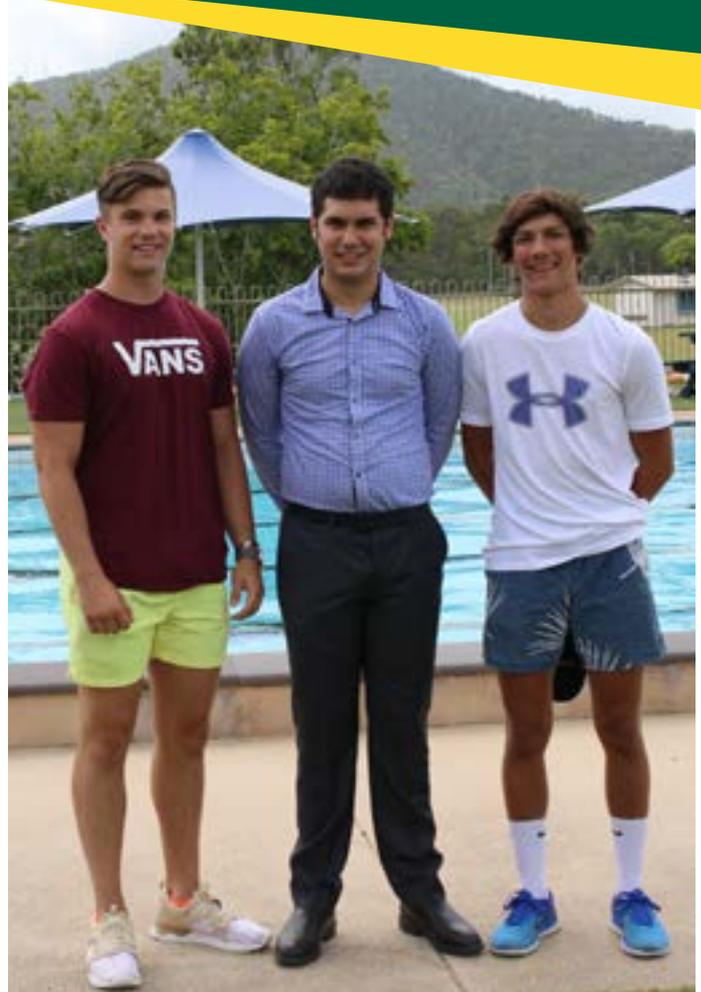
RECREATION REPORT FROM MR TRENT GORRIE

It was an eventful start to the year with plenty of activities on offer after school and over the weekend.

First up, was a trip to the Koorana Crocodile Farm where students had the chance to get close and personal as well as gain a deeper insight into the crocodile world. There was fishing and canoeing on a Sunday afternoon down by the Causeway. The boys did well bringing home several fish and a few crabs to top off the day. On another hot day, students were eager to cool off at the Yeppoon Lagoon. And the following week there was an excursion to the Rockhampton Zoo. Late Night Activities were introduced such as Movie Nights at the Rockhampton Cinema and interactive Wii Game's including Dance and Sport at the College hall. Congratulations to the students that participated and were successful in obtaining their Boat and Jet Ski Licences. More opportunities will be available in Term 2 for students to take advantage of.

A number of motivated students participated in the early morning Yeppoon Park Run each Saturday, while students regularly had the chance to go shopping in Rockhampton. After school, students can also choose to wind down with bike riding, basketball, football or let off steam in the college swimming pool.

We welcome parent and student feedback on our recreation program in SBC Boarding.



MR GORRIE & SUPERVISORS MR DUTOIT & MR SLABBARD

FROM THE HEALTH CENTRE



My name is Jan Finch and I have commenced as the full-time Health Centre Nurse at St Brendan's College.

I am an experienced nurse and have worked in the private and public sector in a varied nursing career. I am endorsed as a Rural and Remote Practice Registered Nurse which allowed me to work in remote primary health centres with Queensland Health in far north Queensland.

I am excited about this new challenge in my nursing career with the opportunity to care for students at St Brendan's College. I am keen to promote healthy living for the students and the importance of hand hygiene within our close-knit community. I also assist as a house parent in McKennariey Residence.

My working hours will be 7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday and I look forward to being able to assist parents/care givers with any health issues you wish to discuss pertaining to your son. The Health Centre direct phone number is 4939 9432. Please do not hesitate to ring me if you have any concerns regarding your son.

Thanks to all those people that have welcomed me to St Brendan's College. I look forward to a long and rewarding chapter in my career. I have included one of my favourite quotes from Florence Nightingale:

"If I could give you information of my life it would be to show how a woman of very ordinary ability has been led by God in strange and unaccustomed paths to do in His service what He has done in her. And if I could tell you all, you would see how God has done all, and I nothing. I have worked hard, very hard, that is all; and I have never refused God anything."

JAN FINCH

FITZPATRICK NEWS: YEARS 7 & 8

It feels like only yesterday that we were greeting our students for the first time. They were all full of excitement and anticipation which to our relief eventually started to subside (after about 4 weeks!) allowing the boys to fall into their new rhythm of schooling life. With everything being so new it took some adjusting on behalf of everyone to make this new adventure a positive one. There were times when relationships were strained which happens in any group situation, but it was pleasing to see the boys come together by the end of term.

One of the biggest challenges was getting the students familiar with the expectations that come with secondary school. New timetables, different teachers, formal uniform days and night study just to name a few. It was very satisfying to see the transformation of our boys as they took this on board.

In amongst their schooling commitments during the day there has been many activities on offer to keep the boys entertained. Some of these include dorm trips to the lagoon, zoo, downtown shopping runs, epic games of dodge ball and all of the things on offer through our recreational program like bike riding, pool activities, laser tag, fishing and kayaking. Other things of note include cubby house building, dirt jump making for the bikes (until Trent our Rec Officer finds out) and lego building.

Overall we have had a great start to the year with the boys settling in well, with the majority of them taking every opportunity to get involved in boarding life. With the experience of Term 1 under our belts we are looking forward to Term 2 underway.

**DAMIEN MCLUSKIE,
ALLAN & SANDY FROST**



THE FITZPATRICK BOARDING TEAM

REACH IS COMING: BOARDING MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

The Reach Boarding System is currently being rolled out. Our Residential Staff did an in-service at the start of the term learning about an on-line roll marking system.

These are some of the advantages of the REACH system:

- Immediate update of where our boys are: sport, shopping, activity, etc.
- Parents can apply for leave on-line through a laptop, mobile phone or any other device that has an internet connection;
- Very clear data and what is happening in the boarding space, thus creating a more safe environment.
- Both parents and hosts can apply for leave at the same time. (Leave with a host must still be approved by the parent/carer).
- External coaches of sports teams will have a clearer and speedier way to sign the boys out for training and games.



For this term we will be doing only roll calls on Reach. This is to allow staff to become more familiar with the system.

Later this term we will send out letters to parents with information on how to download the Reach App and how to apply for leave through the Reach system.

Please be assured that there will still be plenty of support in applying for leave.

Leave will still need to be approved by the Head of Boarding. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

YEAR 7 & 8 SETTLE IN AT FITZPATRICK!



A BOARDING LIFE THAT ENRICHES THEIR JOURNEY!



SBC BOARDING BUS ROUTES:

We understand our boarding families lead hectic lives often with work and other children at home, so our new, affordable bus routes offer an additional level of choice for beginning and end of term travel. Please review the boarding bus route information below, and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.



ST BRENDAN'S COLLEGE BOARDING 2019 BUS ROUTES



ROUTE #1	ROUTE #2	ROUTE #3	ROUTE #4
FROM: YEPPOON 540	FROM: YEPPOON 540	FROM: YEPPOON 540	FROM: YEPPOON 550
TO: MILES	TO: MORANBAH	TO: SPRINGSURE	TO: LONGREACH
SERVICING: Gladstone, Biloela, Banana, Moura, Theodore, Taroom, Wandoan & Miles	SERVICING: Middlemount, Dysart & Moranbah	SERVICING: Duaringa, Dingo, Bluff, Blackwater, Comet, Emerald & Springsure	SERVICING: Emerald, Anakie, Willow's Corner, Alpha, Jericho, Barcardine, Ilfracombe, Longreach

*Additional costs apply. Pick up and drop-off locations subject to change.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

stbrendans.qld.edu.au ☎ 07 49399300 ✉ administration@sbc.qld.edu.au

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAM:

SBC students really are spoilt for choice with a significant range of extra-curricular activities offered each term. 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!

GET IN TOUCH:

Boarding Office: (07) 4939 9450
Boarding Secretary: boarding@sbc.qld.edu.au
School Office: (07) 4939 9300
Website: www.stbrendans.qld.edu.au
After Hours/Head of Boarding - Fr Pius Jones: Tel: +61427 199 813 | jones@sbc.qld.edu.au
Heads of Residence:
Edmund Rice: Ms Sandi Worsley - 0408 741 758
McKennarney: Mr Terry Hansen - 0417 194 547
Fitzpatrick: Mr Damien McLuskie - 0417 640 996

