PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD

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Boarding parents at the Market Stall during the Boarders' Week festivities.



The Country vs City teams after the Rushton Cup football match.

Boarding: It's All About The People

PHIL NOBLE
DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

I have recently returned from what I can only describe as a trip of a lifetime, travelling through some of Australia's remarkable outback stations and properties. This experience has reinforced for me something that sits at the heart of boarding life: it is all about people. Inspired by the connections made during visits to families and communities across the country, as well as recent events including Boarders' Week celebrations: Market Stall and the Rushton Cup football match, I have reflected on the privilege it is to work in such a people-centred role.

As Director of Boarding, my greatest joy comes from working alongside our boarders each day as they navigate their schooling journey. From celebrating successes in the classroom and on the sporting field to supporting boys through challenges and setbacks, boarding provides a unique opportunity to build meaningful relationships and watch young men grow in confidence, character and independence.

Equally important are the connections we build with families. Whether through farm tours, field days, Boarder Parent Weekends, school events or visits to family properties, these opportunities strengthen the partnership between home and school. They allow us to better understand the communities our boys come from and the values that shape them.

I am also incredibly grateful for the sensational colleagues I work alongside. Their dedication, generosity and care have had a profound impact on my life and continue to make our boarding community a special place. In particular, I would like to thank Heather for her 16 years of outstanding service and wish Will Mercer every success as he begins his new role.

At the end of the day, my life and work in boarding is all about people: the students in our care, their families and the colleagues who make this journey so rewarding.



With the Walsh family at Moorna Station near Wentworth, NSW.



With the Hayes/Quinn family at Arckaringa Station near Coober Pedy.



At Coally Station with the Siemer family in North West NSW.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD



Headmaster Mr David Roberts.

A Different View of Boarding

DAVID ROBERTS
HEADMASTER

In early September I had the privilege of visiting some of our boarding families that live in remote locations around South Australia and New South Wales. I accompanied Mr Noble and Simon Heuzenroeder (our pilot and guide) who together, planned and executed the itinerary. First stop was Broken Hill where the strength of the community was obvious – I could have been mistaken for thinking Simon was the mayor of Broken Hill.

These trips are of critical importance for several reasons and whilst I missed the Secondary School Sports Day, it was time well spent. The visits helped me understand where many of our boys come from and what their experiences are before joining PAC. Education through local primary schools or School of the Air does provide some fantastic opportunities, but it is different to what so many of our day boys experience. Over time families form deep connections with other SOTA families and when their children head off to boarding school and the connections to SOTA stop it can be incredibly challenging – following this trip I will ask the boys to check in on Mum and Dad a lot more.

The scenery was so frequently breathtaking, Lake Eyre from the air was a once in a lifetime experience, and the rugged landscape and greenery seemed to go on forever. I know what I observed is not normal and there have been incredibly challenging times as droughts have ravaged the land. This rainfall has been described as a once in a generation occurrence and all are seeking to make the most of it. It did seem that regardless, the connection to, and love for the land ran deep as my hosts spoke eloquently and passionately of their appreciation for its beauty, and respect for its harshness.

At the boarder's assembly I appealed to the community to attempt to understand what it is like for our boarders who join us from rural properties, interstate and overseas. Whilst new boarders can quickly become part of the boarding brotherhood, it can be incredibly challenging, and for some it will take time. Earlier that week, I spoke to one boarder who had been with us for only a few days. He was appreciative of the care others had shown him, but this did not decrease the culture shock he was only slowly beginning to overcome.

Understanding, kindness, keeping busy and having a full stomach goes a long way to helping the boys settle; but like so many things at PAC, we recognise the partnership with our parents, the need for the older boys to step up. We hope you will always feel that you can reach out to us, and our boys know they can always find a staff member to speak with.



Ben with the boys at the iconic Sydney Harbour.

Next generation leadership

BEN LEWIS
BOARDING STAFF

In September, a group of PAC boarding students travelled to Sydney to take part in the Smith Family's Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) National Gathering, joining more than 100 Indigenous students from schools across Australia for several days of connection, culture and leadership.

Moments after landing, we were whisked away to Circular Quay for a photoshoot. Sydney Harbour under blue skies can't help inspire, it's hard to top. As everyone arrived from other states and territories, students quickly found common ground with young people who understood their own experiences of leaving home and community to pursue their education. (Not common ground on footy, though!)

One of the standout moments was a harbour cruise aboard the Tribal Warrior, Sydney's Aboriginal-owned and operated ferry. Sailing across the harbour, students heard cultural stories and saw the city and its waterways through an Aboriginal perspective, a powerful reminder of the deep and continuing connection to Country that exists in the heart of one of Australia's biggest cities.

Equally memorable was a Welcome to Country held at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, a place widely known as the heart of modern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander political culture. Delivered with warmth and generosity, it set a tone of respect and belonging for the Gathering and gave our students a genuine sense of being welcomed onto the land they were visiting, something that resonated deeply with a group so far from their own homes and communities.

Gatherings like this matter. For many Indigenous students, an education like the one on offer at PAC means living away from family, community and Country, a significant sacrifice made in pursuit of opportunity. Coming together with 100 other students walking that same path is a powerful reminder that they are not alone in that journey and that a strong, proud network of young Indigenous leaders is growing across the country.

Our students returned to Adelaide with new friendships, new perspectives, and a renewed sense of pride in who they are and where they come from. Congratulations to the boys who represented PAC so well in Sydney, we're incredibly proud of you.

Another great year in boarding

OSCAR MULHERN
BOARDING CAPTAIN

The boarding house is thriving! With 34 new boarders joining our community in 2026, and as I write this 140 in the house, there are always plenty of opportunities for boys to meet, connect and relax.

As a prefect group, we built our values around the principles of a book we received during our induction, The Resilience Project. I cannot speak highly enough of it. I am not a big reader, yet I often found myself reading a chapter each night. The book centres on the GEM principles of gratitude, empathy and mindfulness, and I like to think these values have guided the way we have led. Through new initiatives started by our prefects and traditions carried forward, boys have always had opportunities to serve our community, get active and support one another.

One initiative I am proud to have started, with the help of Mrs Davies, was a connection with the Eldercare residential village in Kent Town. During Term 3, a group of boys walked there every Wednesday afternoon to spend an hour having conversations with the residents. Their stories were inspiring, and made it especially difficult to leave.

One eye-opening moment came when I sat beside an elderly woman with dementia who initially spoke very little. That Wednesday, I learned about her late husband, her dogs and her life in England. Staff and residents told me they could not remember the last time she had spoken so openly and fluently. It reminded me that something as simple as giving someone your time and attention can have an impact.

On a more active note, the much-anticipated Wednesday night sport returned bigger than ever. Led by Will Trengove and Mitch Quinton, their personalities were on full display, attracting numbers we had not seen before. Soccer was the favourite in most terms, although it often became less about skill and more about pelting the ball as hard as possible and hoping someone else got in the way.



Oscar with his prize as Boarding Captain in 2026.

A highlight this year has been getting to know everyone. From learning names to helping wherever I could, I tried my best to move around the boarding house and connect with boys across all year levels. We often take the scale and diversity of our boarding community for granted, but occasions such as Boarders' Week and National Boarding Week allow us to celebrate our experiences and how far we have come.

Since joining in Year 9, I can confidently say that the lessons, friendships and experiences boarding has given me are second to none. I would like to thank Mr Noble and Mr Mercer for their tireless support of the boarding house and for helping me become the best leader I can be. For my fellow Year 12s, the end feels close, but tireless hours preparing, revising and submitting work still lie ahead. Let's finish strongly, together. And for all my fellow boarders, to paraphrase the wise words of Ron Burgundy, "Stay classy, PAC."

Message from the Editors

For the 2026 Boarders' Herald, we sought to create an engaging and page-turning newspaper that truly celebrates boarding at Prince Alfred College. We would like the thank all the staff, parents, and most importantly, boys, who contributed to making this year's edition a success. It is in the mundane and extraordinary that make boarding what it is, and we hope you are entertained as you read and explore this authentic look into boarding. We would also like to extend a special thanks to the team at Star News Group, without their help we would not have been able to produce and publish such a great production. Happy reading. – The editorial team

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD

Five Years of Boarding Academics

WILL MERCER
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

As I come to the end of five years at Prince Alfred College, one area I have particularly enjoyed reflecting on is how much our approach to Boarding Academics has changed over that time and how much we have seen the students develop in this area.

When I arrived in January 2022, the academic portfolio was one of the areas I was keen to take on, alongside my other responsibilities in Boarding. At the time, COVID disruptions, six weeks of school from home, and constant interruptions to day-to-day operations meant the homework process lacked consistency and structure. One of the first things we looked at was how we could better use the time, staff, and spaces available to support the boys in their engagement and the levels of supervision and support we provided.

Toward the end of 2022, as we returned to relative normalcy after COVID winter, we changed the homework structure and piloted what has now become our standard 120-minute session split across dinner. Once we established that structure, the next step was academic support. While we had the wonderful support of a number of dedicated day-school staff, the consistency and efficacy of general supervision was waning. Throughout 2023, we saw something of a revolution, with day-school staff attending boarding for target masterclass sessions, again, something that has now become our standard operation, as well as the implementation of the Boarding Academic Skills program.

Our partnership with A-Team Tuition began with Year 10 in 2024. This saw a move away from supervisory and tutor staff circulating through a large study room to placing boys in small groups of five to seven per tutor, allowing for much more targeted support. As those cohorts moved through the College, the program evolved with them. A-Team support expanded into Years 11 and 12 at key points across the academic year, and we expanded our offering of targeted masterclasses with College teachers, now covering seven subject areas.

As we worked with the boys and tutors throughout 2024 and 2025, we became more deliberate about transitioning boys from highly supervised homework into studying independently in their own rooms. That progression has probably been the most important part. The aim was never simply more homework or more supervision. It was about creating the structure initially, then gradually giving boys greater independence so they could develop good study habits themselves.

Academic culture takes time to change. Five years on, though, I think there has been a noticeable shift. The results have strengthened, but more importantly, academic endeavour has become a much more established part of the culture of PAC Boarding.

We look forward to seeing the academic outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2026, the first graduating cohort to have completed A-Team in Year 10 and worked under our current model of academic support throughout their upper-senior schooling.



Mr Mercer running a homework session with Year 8 boarders.



Thami and Christian with Mr Noble.

A Taste of Boarding Life

THAMI NYATHI
COLLEGE CAPTAIN

This year, Christian Smith, Ollie Dennis and I had the privilege of experiencing the illustrious Intercol weeks from a slightly different perspective by spending the week in the Boarding House. As a boarder already, Ollie was well accustomed to boarding life having been his home away from home for the better part of almost 3 years, while Christian and I were invited to stay during summer and winter Intercol, excited for the new experience. Unfortunately, Christian and Ollie were away during summer Intercol for Rowing National's but joined me for winter Intercol.

From the day we arrived, we were instantly welcomed, feeling part of the warm and caring boarding community. I was lucky enough to room with Judd Smith, fellow rugby teammate and great friend, and Christian was excited to share a room with Jack Siemer. Both were great at making us feel especially welcome and at home in our wing, McBride 4! Ollie also took a great deal of pride showing us the ropes of his everyday life as a boarder.

Of course, as two active boys, one of the highlights for Christian and I was the amazing dining hall, which we were prepared to make full use of during our stay. Christian and I found that "seconds" was more of a suggestion than a limit, and by the end of the week, third and even fourth helpings were becoming dangerously routine. I think both of us came home a little more plump on the edges... Beyond the food, though, walking to meals and sitting down with the same boys and staff each day created plenty of opportunities for conversations we would not normally have during a busy school day.

We also got to experience some of the routines that make boarding life unique. One of the more entertaining was helping with the dreaded nightly tech hand-up for the younger boys. This involved rounding up phones while keeping a particularly sharp eye out for any suspiciously old, broken or otherwise dubious 'phones' being handed in as substitutes. While it was good fun for us, it also showed how routines involving the older and younger boys help build connections across the Boarding House.

Some of Christian and I's favourite moments were really the simplest ones, the late-night study sessions in the boarding study rooms, my movie nights and chats with Judd before bed in snug beanbags, the pool games and table tennis which got very competitive, and the conversations with boarding staff around the front desk. These moments truly made our stay feel welcoming and homely. Christian, as this was his first and only stay, noticed the Boarding House felt more like a home than expected. There was always someone around to have a chat with, whether it was another student or a member of staff, and it was easy to see why the boys develop such strong relationships with one another.

For Christian and me, the experience brought us even closer to our Year 12 boarding cohort and gave us a much greater appreciation of the community they are part of every day. By the end, boarding life seemed a little like a never-ending sleepover.

We are incredibly grateful to the boys and boarding staff for welcoming us so warmly. Spending Intercol week in the Boarding House gave us the chance to connect with people in a way we normally would not during the school day, and it was an experience that Christian and I thoroughly enjoyed. For Ollie, it was probably just another week at home, although this time with two extra College Captains tagging along!

On behalf of the Vice Captains, I'd like to again express my gratitude to Mr Noble, Mr Mercer, and all the other boarding staff that work incredibly hard for our boarding community to make it feel like home, and for welcoming Christian and I into your doors for two, unforgettable weeks I will never forget.

More than an education

ADRIAN HO
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAPTAIN

Throughout my role as the IS Captain, I have had the privilege of witnessing our community's prosperous development. Despite our diverse origins, scattered across the most vibrant cities in China, the cyberpunk metropolis of Hong Kong, and Bangkok's ornate streets, our bold decisions on seeking education through international studies led us to converge at PAC, a place we now call a second home.

Personally, PAC attracts me with its welcoming environment and a quality education, often challenging our academic endeavors without overwhelming. Whether this welcoming sense originates from the supportive staff, or the friendships developed within and beyond classes, these everyday moments are what we sought in education, and have since slowly shaped who we are today.

I understand that studying overseas often raises challenges that are difficult to overcome, such as homesickness, language barriers and everything in-between. However, these elements are what catalyzes us to adapt and connect across multiple cultures, pushing us beyond our comfort zones as we develop independence and resilience. I am certain that even after graduation and our departure from PAC, these values mended within our characters will be carried along. That is what makes this journey much more than an education on paper.



Adrian with vice-captains Frank and JJ.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD

How Everyday Kindness Builds Belonging

PETE GIFFARD
COLLEGE COUNCILLOR

One of the greatest strengths of boarding life is that no one journeys alone. Living alongside others creates countless opportunities to build friendships, learn from one another, and develop the skills needed to thrive in a community. At PAC, our commitment to Work Hard, Be Kind reminds us that success is not only measured by achievement, but also by how we treat those around us.

In a boarding environment, kindness often appears in simple, everyday actions. It might be inviting a younger student to join a game, checking in on a mate who seems quiet, encouraging a friend before a test or match, or showing consideration for a roommate by keeping shared spaces tidy and respectful. While these gestures may seem small, they can have a significant impact on helping others feel valued, included, and connected.

Research consistently shows that a strong sense of belonging and positive peer relationships are important protective factors for young people's wellbeing. When our boys feel connected to their community, they are more likely to have positive mental health outcomes, increased resilience, and greater levels of engagement in school and life.

Boarding provides unique opportunities to develop these connections. Shared meals, study sessions, sporting commitments, weekend activities, and everyday conversations all contribute to a sense of community. These experiences help boys develop empathy, responsibility, communication skills, and lifelong friendships.



Pete with Bunji, two of PAC's well-being specialists.

Every member of our boarding community has a role to play in creating an environment where others feel welcome and supported. After all, belonging is not built through grand gestures. It is built through the daily choice to notice others, include others, and show kindness. When we do that, we help make boarding feel like a true home away from home.

Now I Know

ANDY HU
BOARDING STAFF

When I joined PAC Boarding in 2024, I never imagined that I would eventually become a boarder in my own way.

At the time, I was still completing a research degree at the University of Adelaide and working as a relief teacher at Seymour College a few days a week. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do next, or whether teaching would be my long-term career. When I saw an opportunity to work in boarding, I thought I would give it a try.

One of my earliest memories of PAC was during a shadow shift. It was a Saturday afternoon, and a group of boys were playing cricket in the Chapman 1 corridor. At the time, it seemed like a fairly ordinary Saturday afternoon in a boys' school, until the ball hit Mr Mercer's door. He eventually opened it and put an end to the game. I apologised for not knowing, and Mr Mercer simply smiled and said, "now you know."

I didn't realise it then, but I was going to learn a lot more than where not to play cricket.

Over the following months, I began to understand what makes boarding different. As a language teacher, I often had only one or two lessons a week with the same students. In boarding, I see more than a hundred students as part of everyday life, whether it's in the morning, after school, at dinner, during activities or simply while I'm on duty.

Over time, I learnt their personalities, they learnt mine, and a closer staff-student relationship develops.



Andy with Mars and Thomas during a cooking class activity.

As I became more familiar with boarding, I also started to notice the difference between working here and living here. I remember finishing a late shift with Mr Ahearn at 10:30pm. He said goodnight and went upstairs, while I still had to get in my car and drive home. I remember thinking there was something rather appealing about simply being able to go upstairs after work.

So I eventually did.

By then, moving in felt quite natural. I already knew the people, the routines and the students, and I had become part of the everyday life of the boarding house. What started as a practical decision became another way of being part of the place.

Looking back at that first shadow shift, I think Mr Mercer was right. Now I know.



Will and some other Year 12s getting ready for dinner service.

Food Committee

WILL DANIEL
YEAR 12 BOARDER

This year Boarding Captain Oscar Mulhern and I took on the role of the food committee. The food committee assists to make sure that the boarding staff, boys and the dining hall staff are all on the same page about improvements that can be made to our dining experience. Oscar and I have participated in meetings with the head chef Simon and his team to discuss data collected from our fellow boarders about how they think the setting of the dining hall or meals can be improved. As a result of this feedback gained, we implemented slight changes such as rotating the days meals were served to reduce repetition, trialling some new dishes, and moving the bag lockers to a more convenient spot. Being a part of the food committee this year alongside Oscar has been a great learning opportunity for me, and thank you to Simon and his team for getting on board and working collaboratively with us as the boarder representatives.

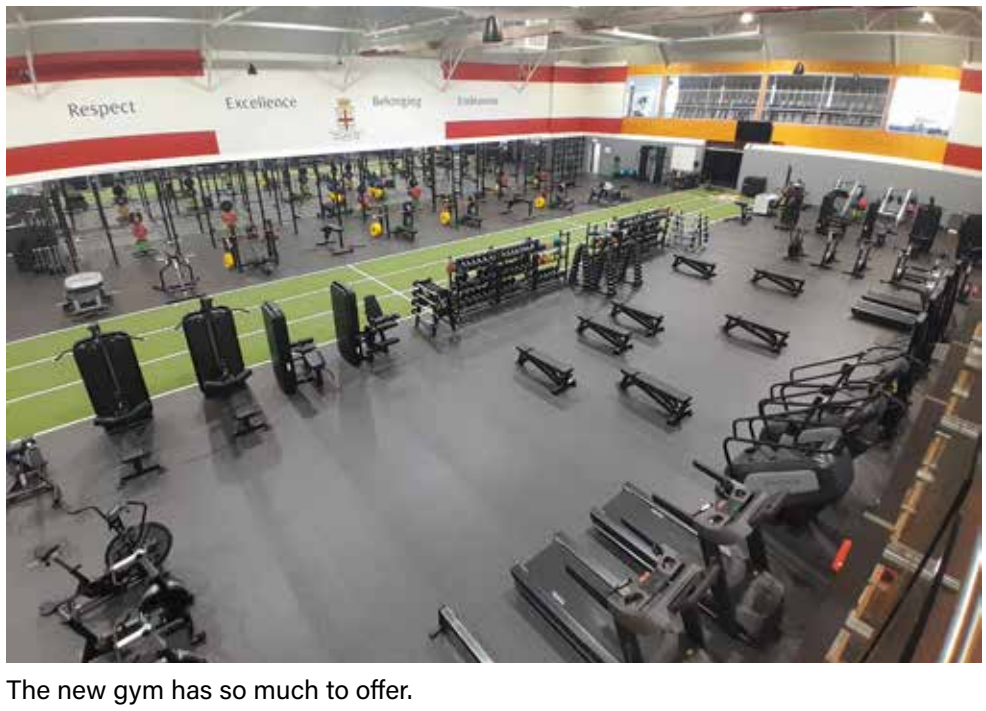
A great new addition

JIMMY MILSOM
YEAR 9 BOARDER

We have recently had a great addition to our school, a brand-new athletic development gym that opened earlier this year. This gym gives day boys, boarders, staff, and Old Collegians a place to look after their body whilst being surrounded by the place we love. The gym has a range of equipment, including treadmills, exercise bikes, row ergs, ski ergs, weights and strength-training machines. The gym has a super handy long surface of artificial grass used for warmups, sled pushes, and anything that doesn't require machines.

The gym is especially useful for boarders because of how convenient it is. The gym opens for student access at 7:00am whilst there are generally some form of a sports team already in there who have started their training at 6:30am.

The gym is a great inclusion for the school because it not only encourages students and develops healthy habits, it helps create an environment that everyone feels welcome. Personally, I really enjoy using the gym because I am able to strengthen my body alongside some extremely helpful staff that ensure we are all safe and enjoying our time. My favourite equipment in the gym has got to be the cable machines as they have so much to offer. Ultimately, the new athletic development gym is a useful and enjoyable facility for everyone.



The new gym has so much to offer.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD



Year 12 parents at the boarders parents weekend.

DOLLY MULHERN AND EMMA DANIEL
BOARDING PARENTS

On the weekend of February 27-28, despite the forecast of impending weather, 100 or so, boarding parents converged upon the picturesque coastal town of Port Elliot on the Fleurieu Peninsula. Port Elliot has rapidly become the 'Victor Harbor of old', making it a holiday destination of choice, just over an hour's drive from Adelaide. For this reason, we decided to base and showcase our weekend from there.

Port Elliot is home to quality local restaurants, shops, pubs, boutiques, stunning beaches, holiday lets and caravan parks and of course, the iconic Port Elliot Bakery. Making it the perfect weekend getaway for our community. Our boarding parents took advantage for a weekend of exploring, learning and connection, and above all, fun and socializing.

Friday night saw everyone meet for drinks and canapes at 'Salt at the Elliot'. Our parents were welcomed by both Chairman of the BPCC, Simon Heuzenroeder and Headmaster, David Roberts, who relayed to us the importance of not only these weekends but the value of the boarding house to the overall school community. We as hosts were also introduced for the weekend.

Saturday morning saw a bright and early start before splitting into two groups for our destinations. Tom from Goolwa Pipi Co presented a highly informative and engaging, talk and tour of

his business. Including, but not limited to, the impact of the algal bloom, sustainability, stockists, how and where Pipis are harvested, why and how he started his business.

The other activity was a behind the scenes tour/experience of the famous Clydesdales of the Victor Harbor Tramway. Here we were educated on the history of the trams and causeway before heading outdoors to the stables, getting up close and personal with the Clydesdales and their handlers. We were able to observe the Clydesdales being harnessed, saddled, and trained in their scenic yard.

Lunch that day saw us all together again at Fleurieu Gin at Myponga. Sumptuous platters, drinks, pizzas and ocean views greeted us at Fleurieu Gin and provided a relaxed setting for lunch, refuelling, and of course more socialising.

The final night saw us all meet at Crisp Port Elliot, for sensational food and drinks and the all-important auction. Thank you to all the generous donors who enabled us to raise funds for our boys for use within the boarding house. Some of the donors were so extremely generous; they bought their own donations back! A big thank you must once again go to Meg Nolan for her advice, creativity and flair and to Heather and Sam in the boarding house, whose unwavering, behind the scenes help, ensured this weekend was a great success.

If we can impart one message upon you, regarding these weekends, it would be this: ask of yourselves what you ask of your boys. Be brave, be bold. Step out of your comfort zone and do exactly what we ask and expect from them. Meet new people in a (possibly) unfamiliar setting, as you won't regret it. You will put faces to names, meeting key boarding and school staff members, visit a new region and make valuable new connections and friendships. Just like our boys.

Our Housekeeping Heroes

TIM QUINN
BOARDING STAFF

With 140 boys in the house, it is our housekeeping heroes that keep the place clean, tidied, and ensure the boys have clean clothes washed, ironed, and folded each and every day.

Starting at 6am, the piles of clothing in trolleys from the previous night are taken to the laundry. After a busy weekend, the piles often reach the ceiling. With sport, life, and probably a bit of disorganisation thrown in, the washing pile builds quickly each day. Tirelessly, our laundry staff work through the rabble and have it all cleaned and ready to go once again.

Whilst the boys are at school, the cleaners set to work across five floors: 150 bedrooms, 83 bathrooms, 15 corridors, work stations, offices, study rooms, recreational spaces. You get the idea!

It is not lost on our boys and boarding staff, the amount of effort that goes into helping maintain our bigger than normal house. We are all grateful and thankful for all the cleaning, the washing, and everything else that occurs to keep our house running smoothly. A big thanks to all the team for all you do for us.



Our fantastic housekeeping team.

Fresh faces in the Health Centre

SALLY-ANN ESKANDARI-MARANDI
HEALTH CENTRE MANAGER

A new year brings new faces to the PAC Health Centre. Sally-Ann brings extensive school nurse experience from Pembroke, where she served as a school nurse for 9 years. Complementing her background, Bec and Sophie join the team directly from the Women's and Children's Hospital. In addition to her nursing experience, Sally-Ann holds a Diploma in Counselling and is an accredited Sports Trainer—a valuable dual capability that enhances both emotional and physical care for our boys. Eager to expand the Health Centre's specialised capabilities, Bec and Sophie are also upskilling in sports injury management to support our active student body.

In the unique environment of a boarding school, where students live and learn away from home, a dedicated nursing team is essential. At PAC, our school nurses play a pivotal role in safeguarding the overall health and wellbeing of every student. Contrary to the misconception that school nurses simply hand out band-aids and paracetamol, their duties are vast, complex, and highly skilled.



Our new nurses Sophie, Sally-Ann and Bec.

As registered health professionals, the team manages chronic conditions like anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy, while providing immediate care for acute injuries such as fractures and concussions. With the team's shared focus on athletic care, students receive rapid, dedicated attention for sports-related incidents alongside routine prescription management, health assessments, and emergency care. Beyond daily clinical care, the Health Centre organises annual flu vaccination programs and actively supports scheduled school visits from immunisation nurses to keep our student community protected.

Equally important is the emotional sanctuary the Health Centre provides. Grounded in strong clinical care and counselling principles, our nurses build trusting relationships with students, offering continuous reassurance and mental health support whenever boarders or day students need a listening ear.

The team extends its care to staff and visitors while liaising with parents, teachers, school counsellors, and external health professionals. For boarders, they work directly with school doctor Dr Manning to oversee health logistics, medical appointments, and individualised care.

The team extends its care to staff and visitors and liaises with parents, teachers, school counsellors, and external health professionals.

By bridging healthcare and education, our nurses help shape individual education plans, advocate for inclusive practices, and aim to ensure that every student is cared for, understood, and empowered to thrive.



The Mercer family all together.

Welcome to the world Amelia

On May 18th 2026 the newest (in every sense of the word) member of our boarding community joined us, and the world, Amelia Anne Mercer. From everyone in the boarding community, we say congratulations to Will, Megan, Sammie and Oscar, and welcome to beautiful little Amelia. And, even though you are moving to Saints next year, PAC will always be your very first home.

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PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD



Two proud Queenslanders.

Good Luck Mr Mercer

OLLIE DENNIS
COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAIN

It is with mixed emotions that the boarding community farewells Mr William Mercer as he leaves to start a new role as Director of Boarding at St Peter's College. Although, as a community, it is upsetting to see Mr Mercer and his family leave, nevertheless, this natural next step in his career is an exciting opportunity, which I know he will make the most of. On a personal note, Mr Mercer has been a guiding rock throughout my Prince's boarding journey, providing constant support and feedback.

Similarly, it has been reassuring to have a fellow Queenslander in the house amongst a sea of South Aussies. Mr Mercer has been one of the most resourceful and caring boarding staff members, particularly at times when he is needed most. He has provided invaluable academic support, and his constant effort certainly does not go unnoticed by the student population.

Ultimately, Mr Mercer has helped shape my education as a Princes Man for the better, which is something that I am sure he will continue to do in his next role.

Why I've stayed?

ALICE BRISTER
BOARDING STAFF

In 2021 I began studying to become a registered nurse (RN) and was looking for casual work. The three years prior, I was a Governess on a station near Coober Pedy, assisted with outdoor education programs at Scotts Creek, and had been involved in refining copper and uranium at BHP Olympic Dam.

Despite attending a co-ed school, growing up close to my younger brother, and enjoying working for PAC previously, it was surprisingly daunting walking into the boarding house for the first time. I was the youngest female staff member, and it was clear many of the boys weren't quite sure how to best respond to me. Thankfully, it wasn't long before this changed and they appeared to enjoy having me around, for the most part at least.

When I started, the task of learning and remembering 150 names and faces was one I didn't think I would be able to achieve. However, I soon found myself not only knowing their names but also; where they were from, their favourite and most-hated meals, the cars they wanted to buy, the sports they played, songs they regularly blasted from their rooms, the names of their siblings and girlfriends. At times, this information seemed to take precedence over everything I was desperately trying to memorise for my studies. Not only did I know the boys, I genuinely cared for all of them and wanted to see them succeed.



Alice with some of this year's Year 12s.

What began as a means to an end, quickly became much more significant, a place not only of work but a place where I have lost countless games of pool and table tennis, had so many interesting, silly and thought-provoking conversations, helped to pick corsages, attempted to assist with homework and was lucky enough to skydive with Year 12's in 2024.

I am now in my second year as a RN working in an emergency department, each shift is vastly different to the last, always interesting and often challenging. I have the privilege of caring for people, sometimes on what is the hardest day of their lives. Despite this, I still cannot quite seem to completely cut ties with 'the BH', it is like no 'job' I have ever had before.

Great food shared with great blokes

HARRY SAINT AND JACK SIEMER
YEAR 12 BOARDERS

Formal dinners are a great boarding house tradition that all the boys get around. Each formal dinner is hosted by a different region our boarders are from. There are always different dress-up themes such as Australia, mismatch, favourite sports, dynamic duos, and many more. The boys always enjoy dressing up and enjoy a good feed of ribs, burgers, and AB packs, etc. This is always a very enjoyable night for the boys because it gives them something different than their usual routine. We also compete in a quiz, teamed up with our table groups, with a mix of general knowledge questions and about the region itself.

This is a very competitive quiz as there is $100 special supper of the winner's choice on the line (we can proudly say, we have claimed a cheeky victory or two in our time). We both enjoy making trips to the op shops on The Parade and pulling random clothes out the bottom of our cupboard. We enjoy formal dinners because it is a chance to not take ourselves so seriously, and have a bit of fun with great blokes over a great meal!



Saxon getting 'shorn'; the Year 12s always know how to look the part.



PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Boys at the track putting their karts together.

Engineering for the racetrack

BILL MARTIN
YEAR 8 BOARDER

Edukart is a year 8 program where you build your own go-kart. You learn everything from building the frame, putting the axles on, aligning the tyres, and doing the first test push around the Prep Gym. One of the interesting skills we learned was how to brake like an ABS system in a car.

One of my favourite things during the process was getting my 'PAC License', driving around the Prep Gym without hitting any cones. The building took from Monday to Wednesday, and then on Thursday and Friday, we went out to the Southern Cross go-kart track to test and drive our builds.

It was a bit wet on Thursday night, so when we got to the track, we were given broomsticks to brush all the water off. We got to practice driving our karts around. One of the events was a drag race down the straight, and then we got to change our wheels and sprockets to make the karts go faster.

Friday morning was wet too, so the broomsticks were out again. My absolute highlight on the track was doing the races. I didn't let off the throttle once going around the track, and I didn't lose a single race!

Wambana

THOR TANG
YEAR 9 BOARDER

All year 9 boys go to Wambana in Point Turton of the Yorke Peninsula. This program is designed to let all the boys plant a seed of what kind of man they want to become and give the boys a chance to also starting to make their way to their dream.

The program is set up in 3 different parts, the cycling tour, Wardi living, and the Melrose hike. Starting with the cycling tour in the first week, boys cycle, camp, and cook for ourselves, going on a trip to different places each day. With lots of good views, there are also plenty of challenges that's designed to push us outside our comfort zone early. The second part of the program is Wardli living for three weeks. We focus on fitness, teamwork, community service, and living independently in houses called Wardli's. The finishing of this part is an 11km run only the beach. Finally, using our knew independence skills, we travel to Melrose to hike and camp overnight. My favorite part of the whole program is the 11km, because I feel that I really push myself very hard and I achieve my target time, which I am proud of.



Thor doing some community service.

Wambana is not a five week break from school, but a program designed to help us become men, with the whole program is built around this core idea. There are many great things that we learn and experience, and we come back, different, more mature, with so many important lessons that will benefit us in life.



Morris and Aaron with the mail collection.



Two Gus's enjoying camp life around the Trangia.

Scotts Creek Fun

ANGUS NORCOCK
YEAR 8 BOARDER

Each year, year 8 boys go to Scotts Creek for camp. Scotts Creek is located near Morgan on the Murray River about 2 hours from PAC. When we got to our first camp site we were assigned our instructors and practice kayaking. That night we learnt how to set up our tents and how to use the Trangia to cook.

The next morning, we packed down our tents and packed all the supplies we needed for the next 2 nights in our dry bags. To make it to our 2nd campsite it took about 9km of kayaking. At arrival, we set up our tents and explored.

That night we ate dinner and had an early night because we were all tired.

The next day we had an early start, we packed our stuff down, then off for 13km of kayaking. That night our instructors cooked our meals for us, which was delicious, but we had to clean up. After a very cold and windy night, we left at 6am to get back to Scotts Creek. After 8km of kayaking we finally made it and it was the best feeling ever! I was so tired and felt like my arms were going to fall off!

We cleaned up the kayaks and tents before we finally got free time with activities such as rugby and fishing. It was so good having a proper cooked meal that night. Our final challenge, we woke up early the next day at 5am to go on a 2km run then jumped in the Murray to celebrate. A great week with a lot of fun.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Jacob, Harvey and Mitchell doing their part.

Red Shield Appeal

HARVEY KOCH
YEAR 11 BOARDER

Earlier in the year a group of Year 11 and 12 boarders volunteered to help the Salvation Army for their Red Shield Appeal, to raise money for support and delivery of vital community programs and social services for those doing it tough. Across a glorious weekend, groups of boys trundled a familiar walk up The Parade.

We put on our aprons, set up the stall, and got to work. During the time we spent advocating, we were given an opportunity to improve our social skills and reflect our position in society during conversations will appreciative members of the public who thanked us for our time. With plenty of donations from the public and lots of conversations with passersby, the boys found the experience to be a really positive and rewarding one. As our shifts came to an end, and the next boys arrived, handing over the metaphorical baton for more donations.

Overall, the boys raising money for this great cause, donating a small portion of our time, and receiving some rejection therapy in the process was a great experience for something bigger than ourselves. I encourage all boys to put their hand up and get amongst it at the next opportunity.

Relaying with purpose

OLLIE JARMAN
BOARDING STAFF

As the rain pelted down on an already sodden oval at Immanuel College, the spirits of the boys who were dedicating their next 20 or so hours to walking in a circle were not to be squelched. The original 5 boys (pictured) got on with the task of setting up the marquee, barbecue and tents before the main event of the relay commenced.

Glances at the BOM radar had us fearing it was going to be a soggy day. Nevertheless, the boys held steadfast in their determination to complete their laps, bond with mates new and old, and most importantly, raise money and awareness for the Cancer Council. Mrs Davies, Mr Pippett and Mr Mercer joined with reinforcements, ready to feast on steak sandwiches and warm Milo. The night continued with the rain only ceasing for mere moments as the turf of Immanuel College deteriorated with the foot traffic.

Due to the all-night determined stomping of the boys, our red and white hula hoop baton circled around the oval a total of 416 times, an improvement from a total of 340 from the year before. All in all, the boys conducted themselves with the upmost dignity and left themselves and the College feeling incredibly proud of their efforts.



Ollie with a group of boarders at Relay For Life.

Helping those away from home

JACOB DANIEL
YEAR 11 BOARDER

On Thursday, 30th July, a group of Year 11 and 12 students from the boarding house travelled to Ronald McDonald House in North Adelaide to cook chicken noodle soup for the residents staying at the house.

Ronald McDonald House provides free or low-cost accommodation, meals and support for families of children receiving medical treatment at nearby hospitals. It was great to see all the boys getting involved and helping a good cause! After we had finished cooking, serving and cleaning we sat down and played some games with some of the kids staying there, ending with all out warfare with balls and toys being thrown around the building, which was a lot of fun.

Something I found impactful about the experience was how kids and families going through some of the hardest parts of their life were smiling, having fun and were so friendly to us.

There was such a feeling of hope that has stuck with me since, and I strongly encourage other boys to put their hand up to go next time this activity is on. I would also like to thank Ellie in the boarding house for running this event and all the amazing volunteers that run Ronald McDonald House for working tirelessly to look after the families.



Boarders cooking up a storm at RMH.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD

Boarder's Challenge

HENRY DREW
YEAR 12 BOARDER

The Boarder's Challenge is an annual and pivotal event of the boarding calendar. In their allocated teams competing against each other, starting with year level heats, followed by a grand final where the best four teams duke it out. This year's Challenge, consisted of six events in relay style: a two-legged race, eating dumplings with chopsticks, driving droppers into the ground, apple bobbing, carrying a tyre, and the ever popular sculling a cup of iced coffee to finish. The apple bobbing challenge proved to be the most difficult with many boys struggling to pick up the apple. To finish off the day boys could treat themselves with doughnuts and chocolate milk where the money raised would go towards charity.



Three-legged race in action.



The victorious Year 12 team with their prize.



Fogden getting off a handball.

City boys too good in a thriller

GEORGE BUTLER
BOARDING VICE-CAPTAIN

Following the boarder's assembly on the 10th of September, our Rushton Cup boarders footy team suited up for the annual match against the day school team. During perfect, sunny conditions, the boarders were able to come out fiery, laying big tackles and moving the ball swiftly. With Colby Marr as a brick wall in full back, and Hamish Vandepeer and Oscar Mulhern looking dangerous up forward; the game was even at half time.

After constant back and forth scoring throughout the second half too, Oscar kicked a goal from the pocket, putting the boarders up by one point with five minutes left. However, unfortunately the City team were able to score a goal with two minutes left, placing them back in the lead. After some late forward entries, we were still unable to convert and lost by five points.

The game was played in great spirit and the boarders team should be very proud of their efforts. Best players were: Marr, Vandepeer, Southwood, Mulhern, Fogden, Butler, and Quinton. Goal kickers were: Mulhern 2, Vandepeer, Daniel, Southwood, Murdoch, Quinton 1.



Hamish proudly representing Boarding and the CY Cougars.

Hard fought Netball win

JACK SOUTHWOOD
YEAR 12 BOARDER

In Week 8, a group the Year 12 boarders made our way across to Seymour College for our traditional PAC vs Seymour netball game as part of Boarders Week. The game was extremely close from the beginning, PAC managed to get a small lead at the start but both teams going goal-for-goal and neither side able to pull away.

Everyone got involved, whether playing on court or supporting from the sidelines, which created a great atmosphere throughout the game. Going into the final minutes, the scores remained close and the result came down to the final few seconds. After a hard-fought game, Seymour, within the last minute managed to catch up, causing the scores to be level, then PAC managed to hold on and score one more goal, giving us a 22-21 victory.

It was a great way to celebrate Boarders Week and continue the tradition between PAC and Seymour.



Jack and the boys getting ready for the big game.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD

Ball!

THOMAS PEDLER
YEAR 9 BOARDER

Heading to the footy whenever I can is always a highlight. Being in the boarding house makes it so much easier to go, as we get the chance to get to almost every game played at the Adelaide Oval. It doesn't matter if the boys are cheering on the Crows, or just watching the two teams they don't support go at each other, everyone is always keen to head out and watch some AFL. The walk is a bit of a journey, but it always brings a bit of fun with it and some sights too. Once we get to the grounds, we sit with our mates, watch the footy, and catch up. We usually sit in the grandstands, which brings an awesome view of the oval with us in the heart of the crowd with its electrifying atmosphere. The footy is just a perfect way to get out of the house, away from school, and unwind with a great time.



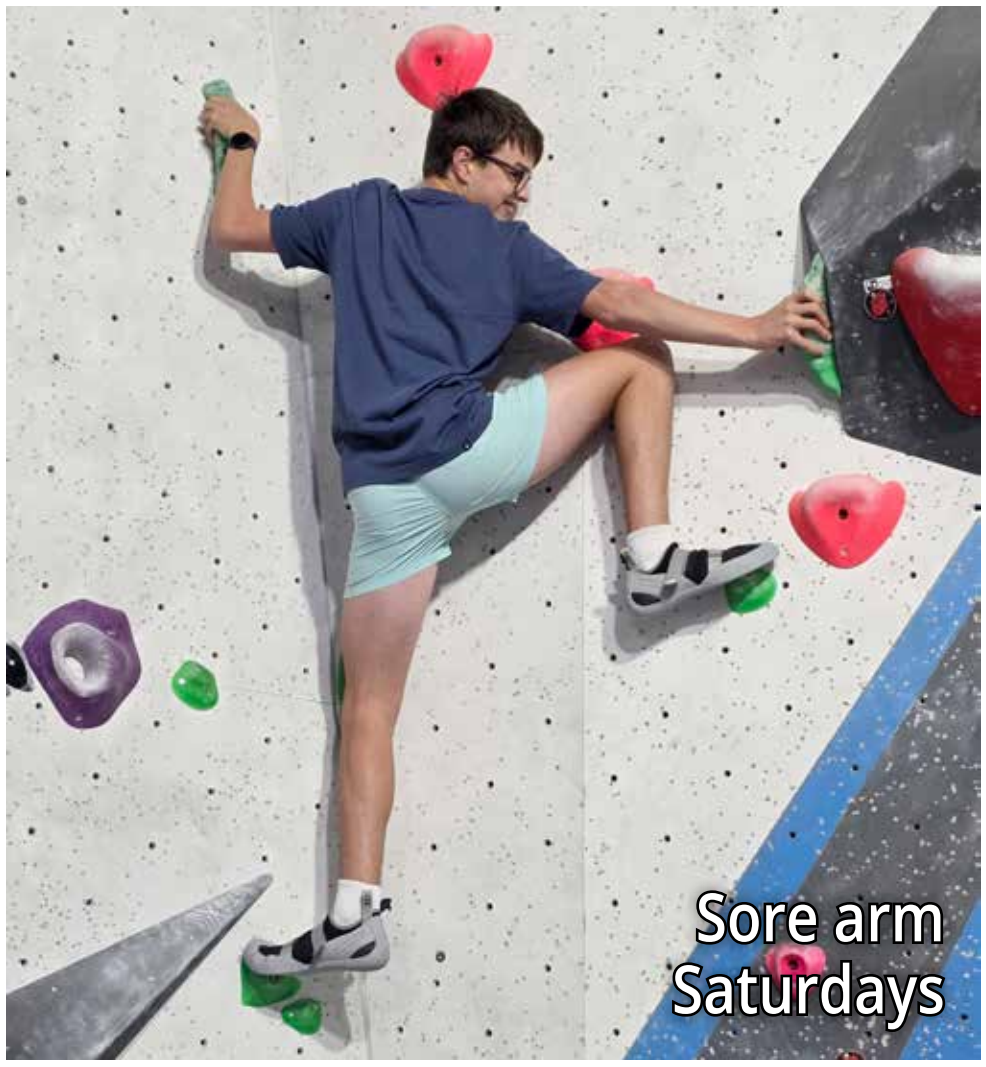
Henry, Thomas and Don on 'The Hill.'



JJ and Keith together at a cooking class.

JJ SORALEKKITTI
YEAR 12 BOARDER

Cooking class with Mrs. Toh in the boarding house is a fantastic way to unwind and enjoy over the weekend. A few times each term, around 15 of us gather in the kitchen of the Max Wellington Room to prep fresh ingredients and follow step-by-step cooking instructions together. We have learned many cooking techniques such as safe knife holding, temperature control and seasoning the dishes. Also, in each term, we learn to prepare a wide variety of meals while strengthening our teamwork. The best part is simple: laughing with mates and sharing amazing food. Beyond basic cooking, this rewarding activity has helped me grow socially and gain practical life independence for the future.



Alexander hanging on for dear life.

ALEXANDER GARNETT
YEAR 8 BOARDER

Don't you love sore arms on a Saturday morning before a game!? Because that is likely what you'll have after Friday night bouldering. A small group us walk literally down the street to Beyond bouldering every 3 Fridays spending the next 2-3 hours climbing and learning from more experienced people. If you don't know what bouldering is, a basic explanation is holding onto small lumps on the wall for dear life to get to the random point at the top of the wall, simple! Most of the time spent there is looking from the side wondering how I am put my body weight on a 1cm foot hold, but at least if you stand there long enough someone with wild flexibility will confirm your worries. The best part is probably discussing with people how to do a climb or showing people other how to. Recently, a group of Saints boarders also there and were unsure, and I had opportunity to show them. Bouldering is easily my favourite activity, even though Sundays still have evidence of those Saturday morning sore arms.

Fishing with Ollie

DON WONG
YEAR 8 BOARDER

Fishing with Ollie is a fun experience, it helps that I love fishing! It was early on a Saturday morning, and we were geared up ready for fishing. So we hopped into the van, and Ollie drove us to the coast where we walked along a jetty to reach the fishing spot. As we looked down, we saw lots of fish. After we find our spot we cast out our line as Ollie tries to help by dropping some extra bait to attract more fish to our area. Being patient is the key to good fishing, and we needed plenty this day. After little success, I cast out one last time before packing up for the day. A miracle, I got a nibble, reeled it in as fast as I could. The fun didn't end with the catch, but also in the filleting, cleaning and cooking back at the boarding house. Doing all the work made this one of the most tasty fish I have ever had!



Don proudly with his catch.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Aaron working on some circuitry.

Friday Night Tinkering

AARON HAYES
YEAR 9 BOARDER

Friday night tech is an activity that takes place on (you guessed it) Friday nights, a few times each term. Boarders get access to the tech rooms at school such as woodwork, metalwork, and electronics to make whatever they wanted to. It can be to work on something being built as part of our tech subjects, or something completely new. We get access to materials and the tools for around 2 and a half hours. Mr. Balestrin, a PAC tech teacher supervises as we tinker away at their projects. I really like Friday night tech because it allows me to have the freedom to make whatever, as I enjoy doing electronics and enjoy working on small projects such as a small robotic arm, and a board with LEDs and switches.

Golf sims a hit

EDDIE CHARNSTROM
YEAR 11 BOARDER

The new golf simulators in the Red Centre were installed earlier this year, and boarders have access to them on Saturday and Sunday nights as boarding activities. I go to the simulators because I enjoy playing golf on exeats and holidays, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to get out of my room, hang out with some fellow students from my year, and get to know some younger boys in the boarding house. Another benefit of the golf simulators is that we can play alongside staff and get to know them better. The high-tech simulators show me all kinds of data, such as spin rate, club speed and ball speed. These simulators are one of the few ways you can record this kind of data. The simulators have many different courses all around the world; some of my favourites are Augusta Municipal in America and the Grange Golf Course in Adelaide. By having access to the simulators every week, I feel that it has increased the quality of my golf game.



Eddie having a swing.



Asher all kitted out and ready to go.

Surfing up a storm

ASHER SIMMS
YEAR 10 BOARDER

Our day begins at 8am, not the best on a Sunday morning, but the early start becomes worth it when surfing. We take a long trip to Middleton, during this trip you get to talk to other boarders in which you may have never met before, strengthening bonds between us. At Middleton, we suit up in tight wetsuits, they start a bit uncomfortable, but you would rather be warm than cold. During the surf we get to show off all our cool tricks and stunts or even get to learn new tricks from others. Having the feeling of being free and uninhibited is a feeling everyone wants. A ritual we always do post surfing is a visit to the famous Port Elliot Bakery, where we get to eat a classic pie and donut (or sausage roll and finger buns) with the choice of a soft drink to wash it all down. The trip is super worth it, and I encourage other boarders to come down and get to meet the surf instructors Dan and Meg. We hop back on the bus, and head back to Adelaide by early afternoon. The surf takes it out of you and make you feel like you were out there all day.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE

BOARDERS' HERALD



Tom in action on the court.



The five boarders in the Intercol match this year.

A cricket masterclass

HENRY FOGDEN
YEAR 12 BOARDER

The 150th Cricket Intercol between Prince Alfred College and St Peter's College was played from 26–29 March 2026 on PAC's Front Oval. The milestone continued a rivalry first contested in 1878 and celebrated 150 matches between the two schools.

PAC produced a dominant performance across the four-day match, beginning with an imposing 9/394d in the first innings. The standout performance came from Jude Thomas, who produced an outstanding 205 not out from 311 balls. St Peter's responded with 246, giving PAC a significant first-innings advantage. PAC then strengthened its position by declaring its second innings at 8/203, setting St Peter's a difficult task to save the match.

On the final day, PAC's bowlers completed the victory by dismissing St Peter's for 172, securing a convincing 148-run win. Henry Fogden finished the game with 7 wickets and Colby Marr with 4. The result capped off an historic occasion for the College, combining one of the strongest individual Intercol batting performances with an impressive team victory. More importantly, the 150th match celebrated the long-standing tradition, rivalry and connection between PAC and St Peter's, with another chapter added to a contest spanning more than 150 years.

First VIII Undefeated

TOM NOLAN
YEAR 11 BOARDER

This year's rowing season was definitely one to remember. After making it through the entire season without losing a race, the First VIII headed into Head of the River hoping to finish the job. With myself coxing the First VIII, and fellow boarders Ollie Dennis and William Garnett rowing in the Second VIII, boarding had a good presence across the top crews.

Head of the River was a massive day, with plenty of nerves and excitement around the sheds before the racing began. The First VIII had a tough race, though we managed to hold our nerve and come away with the win, finishing with a time of 6:05.71, ensuring back-to-back wins.

Winning Head of the River was an exceptionally meaningful way to conclude an undefeated season. It was a memorable achievement for the crew and one that I will reflect on throughout my time at the College. The involvement of three boarders across the top two crews made the victory even more significant.



Rowers celebrate going back-to-back.

SUMMER INTERCOL RESULTS

Badminton SPSC def PAC 11-1

Cricket PAC def SPSC by 172 runs

Rowing PAC win HOTR

Sailing PAC def SPSC 2-1

Swimming PAC def SPSC 642-620

Tennis PAC def SPSC 11-1

Volleyball PAC def SPSC 2-0

Water Polo SPSC def PAC 12-8

20!

TOM NETTLE
YEAR 10 BOARDER

On the Thursday 26 March we played our annual tennis intercol against Saint Peter's. We ended up only dropping two matches throughout the whole day with one of them due to an injury during his match. Despite this, everyone continued to support each other and put in their best effort. As the 129th untercol, tennis is steeped in history between our two schools. We were extremely proud to make our own part of that history, etching our 20th tennis intercol win in a row. It was a great team effort, and everyone should be proud of how hard they fought throughout the day to secure our historic 10-2 victory.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Celebrating their well earnt victory.

Swimmers get it done again

LEO BASCOMBE
YEAR 10 BOARDER

This season of swimming was a mixture of wins and losses for the team. The swimming intercollegiate against Saint Peter's brought a sense of excitement and nerves. For me, with it being my second swimming intercol, I was hoping to keep the winning streak from last year going with another victory against the Saints boys. I was swimming in the 100 and 50 breaststroke, 50 backstroke, and both 100 and 50 freestyle. After a great team effort, we came out with the victory. Overall, a good season with a great ending.



Boats on the water duking it out.

Sailing Dominance

KEITH NG
YEAR 11 BOARDER

On the 24th of March, we competed in our second official Sailing Intercollegiate against St Peter's at West Beach. With our sailing coordinator, Mr Jonathan Scobie, and a determined crew, we arrived ready to compete and prove ourselves.

The weather conditions were excellent, with clear skies and steady winds that our sailors were familiar with. From the very beginning, our team showed strong teamwork, communication, and confidence on the water.

Throughout the races, we quickly established ourselves as the stronger team. Our sailors consistently performed at a high level, making smart decisions and maintaining strong positions against St Peter's. Race after race, we continued to extend our lead, demonstrating the results of our training and preparation.

By the end of the competition, it was clear that we had dominated the event. We finished 3-0 against St Peter's, securing a convincing victory. This achievement was a huge milestone for our sailing team. It showed the hard work, dedication, and teamwork of everyone involved, both on and off the water especially our sailing captain Josh Zhang and our MVP of the season Will Spitty . A massive thank you to our coaches and Mr Scobie for their commitment and support in helping us achieve this result.

Volleyball Breakthrough

AIDAN WITENDEN
YEAR 12 BOARDER

Throughout the last few years, the volleyball program has continued to develop. A testament to this was the 2026 Volleyball Intercol win, a first for the College. The team showed incredible determination, composure, and belief throughout the match, with the win being a team effort.

After taking the first set in a nail-biting 25-23, confidence grew, with the true belief of winning this Intercol starting to take shape. We got off on an early lead in the second set, but Saints fought back strongly. Through the support of the crowd, we were able to hold the lead, finishing the second set 25-22, resulting in the Intercol win in straight sets.

Winning 2-0 was an unforgettable moment, with the victory highlighting the growth of the volleyball program. Although a large portion of Year 12 students from the team are leaving this year, Princes' strong volleyball presence in the younger years will be sure to fill that gap. It was an honour being part of this achievement, and I look forward to seeing how the volleyball program continues to develop.



The crowd played a huge part in securing the first win.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Hamish taking the shot while under pressure.

Back-to-Back Classics

HAMISH PITT
YEAR 11 BOARDER

After last year's heroic win from the boys in overtime, there was a lot of weight going into this game. After a win from our B's team, it set the scene for the First V, and we were ready for a challenge. As expected, it was back-and-forth for the whole game, with the energy from captain James Matthias, fight from Henry Pedler, and effort from the rest of the team, brought us even with St Peter's with only a couple minutes left.

Then, heroics from Josh Dartnall, knocking down three straight deep 3-pointers to give the reds a 9-point lead within a blink of an eye. All we needed was a couple defensive stops, and after an offensive foul we could start the celebrations. Saints tried to reel back, but ultimately fell short. PAC earning back-to-back classic wins in style, 50-46. Go Reds!!!

WINTER INTERCOL RESULTS

Basketball PAC def SPSC 50-46

Chess PAC def SPSC 7.5-2.5

Debate PAC def SPSC 2-1

Football PAC def SPSC 88-48

Hockey SPSC def PAC 2-0

Rugby SPSC def PAC 66-12

Soccer SPSC def PAC 4-2

Squash SPSC def PAC 3-1

Table Tennis SPSC def PAC 12-8

All Boarding Chess

OSCAR YAN
YEAR 10 BOARDER

This year we fielded an all-boarder Chess team playing in division two as the PAC Cyan team. With JJ on board 1, Keith on 2, Andy on 3 then me respectively. We also had Kinglsey as reserve playing board 4. Although this was our regular line-up, we ended up with 8 boarders playing throughout the season. We all enhanced our own skills, achieving a good position in tournament. It's very fascinating to have an all-boarder chess team because it's strengthening our friendship and unwinding with mates on Friday night. The season was full of great laughs and plenty of memories, but none more special than when JJ bought the whole team KFC because of a dominate win that night, Thanks JJ. Go Reds. Go boarders!



RIGHT: JJ playing Oscar while other members watch on with intrigue.



Couldn't quite fightback

EDDIE CALLAGHAN
YEAR 12 BOARDER

The 49th Soccer Intercollegiate between Saint Peter's and Prince Alfred College delivered a contest full of momentum, pressure and plenty of drama. PAC struck first through Max Beltrame, setting the tone for what quickly became a frantic opening half. Saint Peter's responded with relentless attacking pressure, turning the first half into a difficult battle for PAC, who went into the break trailing 4–1. The second half was a different story. The reds emerged with control, moving the ball confidently and piling pressure onto the Saint Peter's defence. Their persistence paid off as they found the net again, cutting the deficit to 4–2 and suddenly putting the result within reach. With momentum firmly on their side, PAC continued to push, creating opportunities and keeping Saint Peter's under pressure. Yet, despite controlling much of the second half, the reds could not find the crucial goals to complete the comeback. The final whistle confirmed a 4–2 result, with PAC left short after a determined second-half fightback.

LEFT: Eddie working hard around the play.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD



Eddie in action controlling the ball.

Tough loss in rivalry clash

EDDIE HANCOCK
YEAR 10 BOARDER

For this year's Hockey intercol, PAC went to Saint's looking for victory away from home. Despite going winless against Saints this year, with our best match going 5-3 in their favour, we went in with high hopes of a win. The team put in a massive effort making the score nil all at the start of the second half with them unfortunately scoring the first goal, but the Reds held our heads high and continued the match with many close shots at the opposing goal but unfortunately the Saints team held off and managed to score another goal against us with the final score of the match being 2-0 against us.

40 point Victory

MITCH HARRIS
YEAR 12 BOARDER

On 22 August, we travelled to St Peter's College for the 156th Intercol Football match. Played in perfect conditions, the game was a strong contest throughout the day, with both teams competing hard. We eventually pulled away to record a 40-point victory, winning 88 to 48.

Several boarders made valuable contributions. AJ Scullino provided strong forward entries and applied plenty of pressure, while Sam Tassone gave the team plenty of run and dash off half-back. Henry Fogden performed his wing role well, working hard across the ground, and Colby Geister played an important defensive role, locking down his opponent throughout the match. Will Trengove also contributed on the scoreboard, kicking a couple of goals.

Other boarders involved were Sachin Tyrell, Tyson Shultz, myself, and Alex Charlick. It was a great day and an important win in the long history of Intercol football. To paraphrase Dr Suess, "it's sad it's over, but we're happy that it happened"



Mitch contesting for a pack mark.



Judd providing support as PAC looks to breakthrough.

Leaving it all on the field

JUDD SMITH
YEAR 12 BOARDER

This year I had the privilege of participating in the 39th Annual rugby Intercol against St Peter's. Despite the final losing scoreline of 66-12, PAC put up a valiant effort displaying dominance throughout the match at times as we utilised set pieces such as line outs and scrums to win the ball and pressure the opposition. The boys in red put up an intense fight whilst being outsized in the majority of the physical contests, with key missed tackles allowing for breaks by the opposition leading to unfavourable one on ones. Nevertheless, the reds showed heart, pushing through both halves and leaving nothing on the field, emphasised with vice-captain Thami Nyathi putting up the last score of the game to erupt the red army in the dying minutes.

PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE
BOARDERS' HERALD

Men's mental health focus

ALEX MUNDY
YEAR 11 BOARDER

On 18th of June, highly accomplished Ben Pettingill, a blind public speaker specializing in mental health, wellbeing, habits and suicide prevention areas shared with us his story.

I first met Ben on the March Long Weekend where we both participated in the Ski for Life mental health fundraising campaign. Ben spoke there on the importance of mateship and checking in with each other which I felt resonated perfectly with boarding life. This led me to pitch the idea of him speaking at school in the boarding house and how he could potentially facilitate a workshop. Over many phone calls, emails, changes of dates, school approvals and receiving a grant, Ben was set to speak to all of the boys about mental health and wellbeing.

It began by Ben sharing his personal journey of losing 98% of his sight overnight as a 16-year-old and how this has shaped his life. With each of the stories, Ben cleverly weaved in how the benefit of connecting with others, reaching out, calculating control and managing emotions is crucial especially in times of distress and worry. Although a lot of what Ben shared and went through was hard and difficult for him, he was able to present in a fun and engaging approach that kept all of the boys engaged and intrigued.

A specific point that Ben made was that for years blokes have been told to toughen up and dust it off and how that behavior is the foundational cause of all major mental health issues in young men today. He said that learning not to bottle it up and seeking help, while uncomfortable is a very necessary step for everyone. And what this looks like today is much different to what it did 20 years ago.

The night was a massive success and all of the boys that attended got a lot out of it and had plenty of questions for Ben, both about mental health and living life blind. A massive thanks goes to Ben and the work he did and also Mr. Noble for helping me with the facilitating and organising behind the night.



Alex (centre) with Ben along with Lachie and Oscar.

The Five Brother Legacy

WILL HEUZENROEDER
BOARDING VICE-CAPTAIN

Boarding at Prince Alfred College has been pivotal in shaping who I am and who my family have become.

Our journey began in 2017, when my parents, Clare and Simon, decided to send my oldest brother Jake from Mildura to Princes in Year 9. Jake recalls it as a daunting change, he was the first Heuzenroeder to attend PAC, and in doing so he cut the path the other four of us would follow. Ten years on, that journey is still far from complete: Harry, the youngest of five, is in Year 8.

Why PAC? When Jake arrived he was still in the old boarding house, but the facilities were never really the point. What set the College apart was a distinctly warm atmosphere that made you feel welcome before you had even started. That warmth has been the one constant across a decade, different buildings, different brothers, same feeling of walking into somewhere that genuinely wanted you there.

Boarding has also opened doors that were never going to be available to us at home. Jake is in his final semester of Law and Commerce at Adelaide, Alex graduated from Marcus Oldham and now works in insurance with Dad in Broken Hill, Sam is in his third year of Chemical Engineering at Adelaide, and I hope to follow Jake into a Law double degree here in Adelaide.

Five boys, ten years, one boarding house. It has given our family far more than an education and is something my family and I will forever be grateful for.



Staff and boys enjoying a game together.



Alex, Will, Harry, Sam, and Jake enjoying a catch up at home.

Putting the board in boarding

MATT AHEARN
BOARDING STAFF

On a lazy Sunday afternoon, or after homework has finished for the evening, there are few things I enjoy more than getting a group of students together for a board game. Different cohorts enjoy different games, some are focused around trivia, others on planning, or deception, but all are a social experience. I get to see students engaging with each other in new ways, and different facets of their personalities. Quieter boys yelling frantically at a racing game, or generally well-behaved students utterly betraying their peers to secure the win. I love the way that students will debrief afterwards about what has happened in a game like a story to be told, which turn into boarding memories for them. When I get pulled away from the game to do other duties, boys reliably step up and take responsibility for running things; leadership comes in many forms! Come and have a try the next time you feel like a game without the screen. Remember, if you're bored, you can't spell boarding without board.

"Mr Ahearn, can we play a board game?"