Welcome to Senior School – Let’s Go Camping

Last week many of our long-term Somerset students joined our new Somerset students on Mt Tamborine for a week of bonding combined with adventure and personal challenge.

Our Outdoor programme aims to assist in the slow and gentle journey from young child to young adult and the journey will involve a transition from dependence to independence. From being totally directed to needing initiative. From comfort to some discomfort. From working as an individual to needing to be part of a team.

In an age when every piece of the curriculum puzzle is scrutinised and many schools are avoiding the challenge of an Outdoor programme, the value is consistently reaffirmed through the obvious growth from the students in their brief time away.

Four nights from home can be a little disconcerting for some of our young students. I have a suspicion that a student’s homesickness is sometimes outweighed by parents missing their children. It is always comforting when a student feels the pangs of anxiety, that a quick phone call home followed by a little loving support from Mrs Rowe has the students smiling again and ready to embrace another night away from their comfy beds. Hopefully by Friday last week our new students felt like they have been at Somerset forever and our older students feel like they’ve made some new friends.

Based on their engagement in the activities I certainly couldn’t tell who was new and who was old, one new student made a point of telling me that “everyone at Somerset is so friendly”. I guess starting at a new school can be a stressful time and I’m proud of our students when I see them make everyone feel so welcome.

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The weather gods shone on us very brightly this year, and we did sweat more than in a Swedish sauna but at least we had some cooling showers in the evening to make sleep more possible. The whole of Year 7 can feel very proud of their efforts. The staff were astounded at the politeness and niceness of the group. Parents deserve a pat on the back as you can all feel very proud of your children as not one person gave us cause to consider our chosen career path.

From the start on Monday, where setting up a tent and sharing that tiny space with a new friend is a big challenge, to the adventure-based activity days on Tuesday and Wednesday, through to our House activity day on Thursday where the student leaders join us in a day of activity, or sleeping, in Dr Brohier’s meditation session, we were amazed that all students embraced the challenges with good humour through sleep deprivation and tiredness that would have challenged an SAS recruit.

For students whose ages range from 11 to 12, the prospect of abseiling, or high ropes or eating vegetables can be met with catatonic fear, yet this year all students gave every activity an attempt and many overcame extreme fears to undertake the challenge of the abseil. That first step backwards over the cliffs edge always gives you an adrenaline rush, regardless of how many times you’ve done it.

The final and greatest challenge for many students is the camp concert and, as if we haven’t all seen enough reality TV, many of the concerts proceeded to mock these programmes in a clever and entertaining way. This often showed the ultimate in bravery as everyone played a role and contributed and that’s all we ever ask.

It isn’t just the abseil or the high ropes that provide avenues for growth. While adventure activities challenge students to overcome fear and ultimately gain a real sense of accomplishment without the stress of competition, it’s often the small things that provide some of the most valuable life lessons. Students setting the table for others, cleaning off their plates, pouring drinks for their table, cleaning the bathrooms, assisting others with their tents, planning their own clothes for the week, organising their toiletries, and so on. While these skills are simple, they are often taken for granted yet they do need to be learnt at some point. Often the consequences of being lackadaisical at home are not critical, but on camp the consequences can cause real discomfort and a lesson not easily forgotten.

This cohort of Year 7 were outstanding in their willingness to work together, undertake new challenges and embrace the camp experience.

Congratulations, Year 7. You are a delightful group and I look forward to enjoying your company for the next six years.

Craig Sayer
Dean of Activities

Supporting Our Swimmers

It has been a very busy two weeks at the pool with both the Junior and Senior Swimming Carnivals. Congratulations to Laver House, winner of the Senior Carnival and Starkey House, winner of the Junior Carnival.

There has been some fantastic swimming on display by the students. It has been a pleasure for the Parents’ and Friends’ Association to be able to run a barbeque at both carnivals for our students. We couldn’t have done this without the support of the Somerset Community and we would like to thank all of our volunteers for both carnivals, together with the wonderful families who donated an assortment of items for us.

Kathryn Dolan
P & F Committee Member
**Holidays at Safe Haven Orphanage**

Over the Christmas holidays I was fortunate enough to spend several weeks living at Safe Haven Orphanage. This was my third visit to this special place, therefore the children are more than just friends to me; they are family.

Prior to leaving Australia, the Somerset Community donated funds to allow one child's dream of owning a pair of Nike shoes become reality. I would like to say a massive thank you to each and every person who helped me during this fundraising process. We were able to purchase some second-hand Nike-branded shoes for every child and the look on their face when they saw these gifts were priceless. I will always treasure the memory of seeing their faces light up as they 'showed off' their new prized possession.

Whilst there, we volunteered at the local school to help teach English. The school facilities and resources were limited and overcrowding was prominent but despite these harsh conditions, each and every child was eager to soak up the chance to be educated. Perhaps sometimes, we should all pause for a moment and reflect on how privileged we are to attend Somerset College, where endless doors await us, because I know for a fact that each and every child at Safe Haven Orphanage would jump at the chance to be given the opportunities that we have.

There was a definite language barrier between the children and I, however the saying “love recognises no barriers” rang true. We were able to laugh and enjoy each other's company as we shared in their daily chores of washing, gardening or caring for the young children. Whilst we were living there, four new children were simply dropped off at the main entrance to the orphanage. Within minutes of their arrival, the children had embraced the strangers and openly accepted them into the Safe Haven family. No one was ever excluded because they were different or new instead they were integrated into the loving, caring community. The children freely shared their clothes and blankets with the newcomers and took their hand to guide them into the daily routine.

It was very heartbreaking saying our final farewells. My friends often commend me for giving up my holidays to help others, however the truth is, they help me more than I help them. Living this experience makes me understand the concept of gratitude and appreciate how fortunate I am to be born and raised in a western country with opportunities abound.

Amy Luke-Paredi  
Year 11 Veivers

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**Year 9 Design Students are Saving Australia’s Bees**

In Year 9 Design we are currently working on a unit where the objective is to design and make Bee Hotels which will be installed around the College to support the native bee population. So far during this project we have inquired into why bees are so important to our world.

We have also looked at the features of existing similar products and identified their key features. This will help us when we create our own designs. I enjoy this unit as it shows and teaches us about all the aspects involved with creating a bee hotel - there is the research, planning and designing side and then there is the woodwork side. I think my favourite part in this project will be constructing the bee hotel. So far I have learnt several important skills that, without a doubt, I will be using in the future. Some of these skills include designing, creating, planning, woodwork and researching techniques.

I have set myself some goals to work towards during this unit. These goals include having fun, achieving an above average mark and remembering the important research I have learnt from this project. Ultimately, my goal for this unit is to complete it well. This unit is really well thought-out and helps with educating students about why bees are important as well as other skills.

Kip Thrupp  
Year 9 Starkey
**Year 7 Camp**

On Monday morning, 6 February, the 2017 Year 7 cohort chatted nervously. What are we going to eat? What are we going to do at this camp? How do I set up a tent? These questions undoubtedly went through each student's mind before we got on the busses.

When we finally arrived, we had a morning tea break – then we got down to business. In the boiling hot sun, we each found our own patch of grass and set up our tents. There were a few minor arguments about which tent group owned which patch of grass, but overall we had a fun time. That day, we did activities in our Houses such as yoga with Dr Brohier and a slip 'n' slide with Mrs Carroll down a large hill.

That night, we split up to do different activities. Groups 1 and 2 explored a nature trail on the hunt for glowworms and groups 3 and 4 did bush dancing with Mrs Rowe and Mrs Walker. The next day, we went our different ways for the day – the four groups spreading out for high ropes and laser skirmish at Thunderbird Park and abseiling and swimming in rock pools. By far, laser skirmish was the most fun I had at camp – two hours of hiding in the bushes and shooting at friends and rivals and earning points for our teams. Though, for every fun moment – there is always a moment of fear. This was clear in abseiling – we were going to walk off a cliff! In the first moments of abseiling we were all fearing for our lives when we leaned over the cliff. What if I fall? Will I survive? These were questions rushing through our minds as we slowly stepped down the cliff.

Camp, overall, was a great experience in our lives. The Tassie Trip was fun, but the hotels were limited to only 5 stars. However, in this camp we were sleeping under infinite stars (the night sky)! In the end, we were a little bit sad to leave camp ... but we left with plenty of memories to share and I am sure everyone is looking forward to Year 8 Camp! Thank you to all the teachers involved who helped us to have a fun week away.

Ruben Yam  
Year 7 Veivers

**Year 12 Leaders Join Year 7 Camp**

On Thursday 9 February half of this year's College leaders hopped on a bus and made our way to the Year 7 Camp at Mount Tamborine. The short bus ride was extended slightly because our bus did not deal the hills very well and broke down when we were 15 minutes from the camp site.

Not to worry, as Mr Sayer came to our rescue and we finally arrived at the Mount Tamborine camp site just in time for lunch.

After lunch the leaders were split into our respective Houses and went with the Year 7s in each House to do a number of different activities. We completed meditation, boxing, orienteering, bird watching, concert practice and many other fun activities. After each House had finished their activity, we had a delicious piece of chocolate cake for afternoon tea and a quick break. The Houses then separated so the Year 7s could prepare for the concert that was happening after dinner. The concert was an amazing experience for all teachers, students, leaders and, I’m sure, our Gap students.

All five Houses displayed wide ranges of talent, humour and emotion throughout the night, however Franklin House came out on top with a great performance about a blind marriage skit. After that the Year 12 leaders played out a skit showing the stereotypes of each Year Level yet to come. We also had an amazing performance by one of our Gap students, TK, who sang **Mercy** by Shawn Mendes, his national anthem and his school song. Overall, I’m sure it will be one of the most memorable nights the Year 7s will look back on in the future.

Nicholas Pridham and Eleanor Sambrook  
Year 7 Captains
Welcome to Somerset Actors Studio (SAS)

Every year Somerset students gather in PA22 on a Wednesday lunchtime for one simple reason, a love of acting and performing. SAS has begun for 2017 and it has already attracted a strong ensemble of passionate thespians, brimming with ideas of what they can explore, create and perform.

SAS is tailored to the interests of its members, and works to ensure every student develops their acting skills, experiences different styles of performance, collaborates with others and has a roaring good time in the process! Our doors are always open for new members, so if you are curious, drop by and see what it is all about.

Anna D’Arcy
Assistant Head of Department - Performing Arts

Using Your Talents

During the week, members of both Andrews and Franklin Houses have been using their music talents to add to the Services at the evening House Chapels. The members of the Houses that play instruments have provided the processional and recessional for each service as well as accompanied the hymns of the service.

Choristers from each of the Houses have banded together to perform an anthem for each of the services as well. Next week will see the same occur for the remaining Houses: Laver, Starkey and Veivers. Thanks must go to the students for their efforts and for using their talents to help in the service life of the College.

Sue Roberts
Head of Department - Performing Arts

Half Way to the Finish Line

The House Play Festival rehearsals are in full swing, with energy, imagination and collaboration radiating out of each rehearsal space. The House Directors have launched head on into the process, selecting a cast, organising schedules, blocking scenes, developing characters and most importantly, bringing their artistic vision to life on stage.

It is an eclectic mix of scripts this year with sticky notes, a killer magpie, unfortunate children, break up emojis and paper insects just a snapshot of what is going to transpire in the Performing Arts Theatre on 2 and 3 March.

Who will be the victor? Only time will tell.

Tickets are now on sale for the 2017 House Plays Festival and can be purchased through the College Events Page.

Anna D’Arcy
Assistant Head of Department – Performing Arts

First Visit to Mudgee Kids

On Thursday a group of Year 11 students, including myself, went to Mudgeeraba Special School. As it was my first visit to the school I didn’t quite know what to expect, however I was really looking forward to the afternoon. I was assigned to work with two lovely 6 year old boys. Even though they were both mostly non-verbal, in just two hours of building blocks, making puzzles and playing games, I built very strong connections with both of them and I am already counting down the days until I can return next Thursday.

Personally, I found this experience incredibly rewarding and I loved interacting with the kids. I am so grateful to Mr Walker, Dr Johnson and Mudgeeraba Special School for providing us with this amazing life experience and service opportunity!

Tess Arnold
Year 11 Veivers
This week was a busy one for swimming with Monday’s Inter-House Swimming Carnival and Wednesday’s APS Swimming Carnival. Next week we recommence our APS Winter Sports Trials.

On Monday, 800 students gathered at our impressive pool facility and took part in our programme of 150 50m events and 50 25m events. Laver took out a tightly-fought carnival (for the first time in 17 years), with a win over Franklin as 22 College records were broken.

Many thanks to Mr Forrest Butcher for his assistance in so many ways, particularly with his expertise in the software and timing system, the Parents’ and Friends’ Association for providing hospitality on the day and the staff of Somerset College for giving up their time to ensure that our students could compete to the best of their abilities. In addition, our Heads of House do an extraordinary amount of work, mostly behind the scenes in preparing their Houses for competition and involvement.

**Age Champions**

12 Year Old Girls
1. Jorja Otto, Laver
2. Charlyse Thompson, Andrews
3. Mackenzie Cadman, Andrews

12 Year Old Boys
1. Thomas Gray, Laver
2. Jasper Mansell, Starkey
3. Justin Hammott, Franklin

13 Year Old Girls
1. Adele Phillips, Veivers
2. Mia Collins, Starkey
3. Esther Kim, Franklin

13 Year Old Boys
1. Hugh Munro, Franklin
2. Oskar Vardy, Franklin
3. Timothy Hornsey, Starkey

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**Somerset Top Fundraisers**

Every August in the KIP we hold our annual week-long Book Fair, where parents and students can purchase books, stationery and craft kits at great prices. This generates funds for us, which we then, in turn, “pay forward” in the form of gifts for Mudgeeraba Special School and a cash donation to the Room to Read organisation.

Room to Read is a non-profit organisation which achieves brilliant results in over ten impoverished countries, delivering literacy programmes and promoting gender equality through education.

For girls in the world’s poorest countries, staying in school longer means they more likely to marry later, build a smaller and healthier family, lower their probability of contracting HIV, and earn a higher wage. Educated women are also more likely to educate their own children - ending the cycle of illiteracy in one generation. Over 10 million children have benefited from their efforts to date.

Thanks to the generosity and support of you, the Somerset community, we donated $2,300 to Room to Read in 2016, which made us their number one fundraiser for the year. Congratulations, Somerset, you’ve helped change the world for the better!

Jennifer Walsh
Information Services

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**Senior Sport News – Week 4**

This week was a busy one for swimming with Monday’s Inter-House Swimming Carnival and Wednesday’s APS Swimming Carnival. Next week we recommence our APS Winter Sports Trials.

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3. Esther Kim, Franklin

13 Year Old Boys
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2. Oskar Vardy, Franklin
3. Timothy Hornsey, Starkey

Continued over page...
### Senior Sport News – Week 4 continued

#### 14 Year Old Girls
1. Piper Nairn, Laver  
2. Ashleigh Childs, Laver  
3. Emma Wilson, Starkey

#### 14 Year Old Boys
1. Ryan Vardy, Franklin  
2. Kipp Thrupp, Starkey  
3. Sean Nguyen, Andrews

#### 15 Year Old Girls
1. Brooke Otto, Laver  
2. Georgia Ellwood, Laver; Jordan Wilson, Starkey

#### 15 Year Old Boys
1. Ky Codd, Andrews  
2. Casey Wilson, Laver; Min Jae Kyeong, Franklin; Kevin Song, Franklin

#### 16 Year Old Girls
1. Jade Mansell, Starkey  
2. Brittany Childs, Laver  
3. Uni Kyeong, Franklin

#### 16 Year Old Boys
1. Leon Shirayama, Franklin  
2. Harrison Smith, Franklin  
3. Thomas Nowakowski, Veivers

#### 17 Year Old Girls
1. Eleanor Sambrook, Laver  
3. Katherine Plume, Veivers

#### 17 Year Old Boys
1. Cal Moloney, Franklin  
2. Callum Moffat, Andrews  
3. Nicholas Sandeman, Franklin

#### 18 Year Old Girls
1. Bianca Crisp, Starkey  
2. Courtney Simmons, Andrews  
3. Mayla Singh, Andrews

*Continued over page...*
18 Year Old Boys
1. CJ Licuanan, Franklin
2. Miles Park, Laver
3. Luke Lee, Franklin

Girls – 100m Races
1. Brooke Otto, Laver
2. Adele Phillips, Veivers
3. Jade Mansell, Starkey

Boys – 100m Races
1. Leon Shirayama, Franklin
2. Harrison Smith, Franklin
3. Miles Park, Laver

New College Records
- Leon Shirayama (F), Boys 16 Years: 100m Butterfly - 1:00.80 (1:01.21)
- Thomas Gray (L), Boys 12 Years: 100m Freestyle - 1:16.73 (1:17.65)
- Jorja Otto (L), Girls 12 Years: 100m Freestyle - 1:14.95 (1:28.55)
- Hugh Munro (F), Boys 13 Years: 100m Freestyle - 1:04.13 (1:06.70)
- Adele Phillips (V), Girls 13 Years: 100m Freestyle - 1:04.81 (1:08.04)
- Georgia Ellwood (L), Girls 15 Years: 100m Freestyle - 1:04.39 (1:04.88)
- Leon Shirayama (F), Boys 16 Years: 100m Freestyle - 55.94 (1:03.30)
- Harrison Smith (F), Boys 16 Years: 100m Breaststroke - 1:08.57 (1:15.21)
- Leon Shirayama (F), Boys 16 Years: 50m Butterfly - 26.59 (27.91)
- Miles Park (L), Boys 18 Years: 50m Butterfly - 27.43 (29.11)
- Bianca Crisp (S), Girls 18 Years: 50m Butterfly - 33.47 (34.44)
- Jorja Otto (L), Girls 12 Years: 50m Backstroke - 35.34 (38.79)
- Brooke Otto (L), Girls 15 Years: 50m Backstroke - 32.52 (34.63)
- Harrison Smith (F), Boys 16 Years: 50m Backstroke - 29.93 (29.94)
- Miles Park (L), Boys 18 Years: 50m Backstroke - 30.76 (31.34)
- Bianca Crisp (S), Girls 18 Years: 50m Backstroke - 36.96 (37.94)
- Adele Phillips (V), Girls 13 Years: 50m Freestyle - 30.13 (30.23)
- Leon Shirayama (F), Boys 16 Years: 50m Freestyle - 25.03 (25.93)
- CJ Licuanan (F), Boys 18 Years: 50m Freestyle - 24.50 (26.73)
- Bianca Crisp (S), Girls 18 Years: 50m Freestyle - 31.04 (31.98)
- Leon Shirayama (F), Boys 16 Years: 50m Breaststroke - 30.96 (34.50)
- CJ Licuanan (F), Boys 18 Years: 50m Breaststroke - 34.00 (35.57)

Hamish Boyd, Modern Pentathlon
Hamish competed in the Modern Pentathlon National Championships in Melbourne on the weekend with great results. Hamish came away with a bronze medal, PBs in his swim and combined run/shoot events and has earned a spot on the Australian team for the Asia Pacific titles in Japan in September in the 17-18 Year Old Youth A age group and also the 19-21 Year Old Junior event.

Sport Next Week
Friday 24 February
- 1.15pm: Winter Sport Trials (2 of 3)
All sporting details are posted on Schoolbox on the Sports page.
Sprint Meet Success

The Somerset Swim Club held its February Swim Meet, the 2017 Somerset Sprint Meet on Saturday 4 February. The day saw over 350 competitors from Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales compete.

Somerset had its largest ever contingent with 101 swimmers and a few Somerset-trained international swimmers race, making for a very busy day.

Quite a few records were broken on the day and Somerset swimmers Brooke Otto, Anarnya Berlowitz, Millie Entwistle, Ben Treffers, Regan Leong and Mia Graham were among them. Thank you to the Somerset Students who supported the event and were able to be credited with Community Service by assisting with timekeeping, marshal running and in food delivery to officials.

A large thank you to the band of volunteers (parents and children) who helped make the day the best yet by the Club, in keeping the many roles filled and completed their roles with a smile despite the heat. Lastly, to the coaches Graeme, Ash, Taylor and Cheryl, who looked after all our swimmers in preparing them and rallying them on the day, thank you.

Forrest Butcher
Head Coach – Swimming