

When the school comes into bloom

EDITORIAL

By TYLER GEORGIADIS,
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and DAVID FELL

"THE best school in the southern hemisphere," were the words of former principal Chris Walkling, who was with St Philip's Christian College from when it opened.

Starting with only 41 students and two classrooms, after 16 years of success, the school now has more than 730 students and 60 classrooms from preschool to year 12, and more than 100 staff.

Unfortunately, Mr Walkling couldn't see how the school has evolved because he died in July last year. A bench underneath the school's foundation fig tree was placed in memory of the school's sad loss.

St Philip's has recently seen the arrival of a new principal, Tim Petterson.

"This year 100 new students joined the school and 48 of them are in kindergarten," he said.

The future is in Dr Petterson's hands as the school recently expanded land size. Dr Petterson would like to get another parking lot built with 195 car parks and six new spaces for buses to not only drop students off, but also pick them up.

"I'm planning on replacing the demountables with state-of-the-art custom senior school buildings," he said.

Last year, the school started a mission trip to Vanuatu to help them raise money for a better education and lifestyle. This year, students from year 7 and 8 were sent there to experience what it is like to live in Vanuatu.

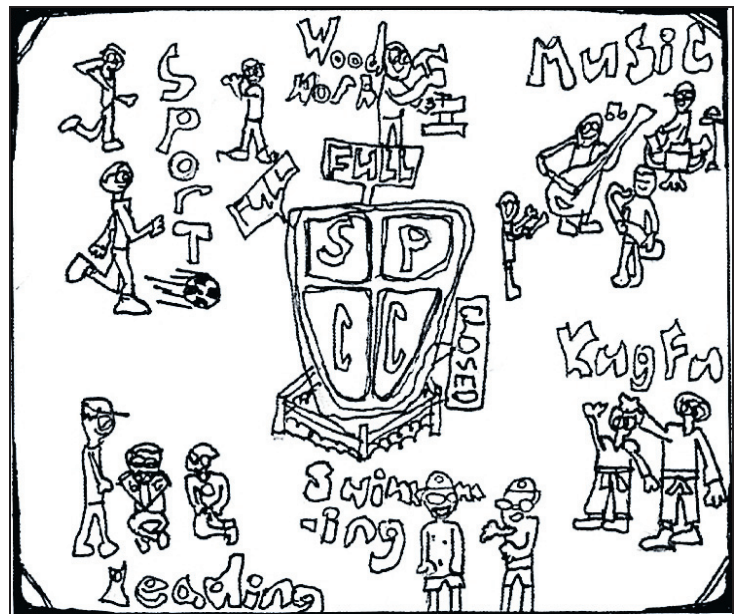
It is opportunities like this one that help set the school apart. The stories from those who went on the trip certainly attest to the amazing life experience of the mission they were able to share.

"The school has many opportunities for students that include creative and performing arts, sport, electronics and programming.

"Every classroom, from year 1 to 12 has a state-of-the-art interactive whiteboard. Students from year 5 and up get their own Apple MacBook to help their learning as part of the ThinkSmart Program," said Dr Petterson.

"The school's population is constantly growing, with students coming from countries such as Vietnam, Korea, and Japan."

With a growing population, increasing land availability and the positive attitude to growth of everyone involved, the future is bright. Can you imagine what the school will look like in 2050? On present evidence, a place of dedication to the best for all students.



Cartoon: Noah Meez



SWEET SOUNDS: Grace Kim and Emily Hickey participating in the workshop with Mark Ingwersen.
Picture: Makalya Brennan

The magic of string music

By EMILY HICKEY and AIDAN FLINN

WHEN Mrs Brake, the school music co-ordinator, formed a strings group in February 2011, there were only beginners at first, but this quickly increased as students became interested.

The strings group consists of the cello and violin, along with the piano. In the group is leader Rebecca Brake, as well as parents and students.

Recently the group was honoured by the expert guidance of visiting musician Mark Ingwersen.

Before Mark came to the school, the students had a Skype session with him. Mark discussed with the group what they would be learning

and the different pieces of music they would be playing. They talked about how the performance was going to be laid out.

Every Wednesday lunchtime, the strings group meets in the music room and after school each Monday.

The group had the chance to work with Mark when he came to the school to perform in a concert organised by Mrs Brake. Most were nervous, but after playing with Mark, everyone felt more comfortable.

The performance went very well and the strings group had fun learning and playing Vivaldi's *Winter* and a piece by Georg Telemann.

The strings group thought it was an exciting experience and hope they can play with Mark again.

Rabbits are plaguing schoolyard

By JYE FRANCIS, ALEXIS
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EMILY HAMLYN-HARRIS

ST PHILIP'S Christian College has a growing rabbit plague, consisting of rabbits digging large holes in the middle and senior school oval.

The situation has caught the attention of many students and teachers, many stepping in a freshly dug rabbit hole. This predicament has also overly angered the groundskeeper, as he struggles to fill the holes before they do any serious damage to students or teachers.

The critters have proven to be quite clever as they come out at night when no one is on the school grounds. It has been confirmed that the rabbits have also started to leave faeces around and in their holes. This has engendered even more complaints filed by the students.

"I hate having those pests around," said student Joe McCauley.

As the school is expanding, students have been quick to ask: how to get rid of them and can they be exterminated?

There isn't enough room in the school for the rabbits and the students; someone must go and it won't be the students.

Though it isn't ideal, the rabbits may have to be exterminated. But this leaves the question of how.

A quiet place to reflect upon a great man

By PEARL ANDERSON,
JESSE REUNGKITCHAYA
and LACHLAN INGRAM-DAVIS

IN honour of Mr Walkling, the founding principal of St Philip's Christian College, the school set up a memorial chair on the oval at the spot where he would always go to find peace.

His favourite Bible verse - John 15:1-3 - was placed on a plaque on the chair, as well as the words: In loving memory of Chris Walkling, Founding Principal 1995-2012, year 12, 2012.

Mr Herd, deputy principal, thought Mr Walkling was like Superman because he was always there to help.

Daniel Searls, a former student, was asked which superhero was most like Mr Walkling; the answer was again Superman: "Mr Walkling was very kind and helpful."

He was the best in the eyes of many people.

Mr Walkling started the school with one other teacher and 42 students and now there are almost 750 students.



FAVOURITE SPOT: Mr Walkling's chair at the school.
Picture: Lachlan Ingram-Davis, Jesse Reungkitchaya

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