



## From the Acting Director...

Mick Gentle

Hello again and welcome to our new year.

It has been an extremely busy start to the year as we introduced the new students who participated in our orientation program in 2015 to our old students currently enrolled. Out of the new enrolments we accepted several students with high needs and noticed students constantly trying to ascertain their natural pecking order. With staff supervising closely we noticed that by the end of term students were starting to implement the strategies they were provided, which helped them settle into their normal routines and work better together. This is a huge credit to the unique skills and dedication of all staff involved. It also highlights the importance of the three day professional development in Therapeutic Crisis intervention all staff participated in.

In week 3 of the term our fearless leader Chris Kokegei was forced to take leave to have his arm operated on which he injured at work last year. In sharing his duties with Wendy Kokegei it was quickly apparent the quantity of work that was required to successfully complete this role. A huge thanks to Wendy and other staff at The Haven who worked tirelessly throughout the term to ensure that The Haven continued to be successful whilst Chris was on leave. As a result of this hard work three of our students are preparing themselves to re-integrate back into main stream schools. Well done to these students!

Another huge thank you to all supporters and sponsors who supported our annual Golf Day. The day ran smoothly and saw a large amount of money raised, which will help to go towards keeping the school running and providing extracurricular activities for our students. The highlight for me as always is to witness the amazing generosity and support of sponsors though out the day. An indication of their generosity can be seen by the fact that the raffle alone raised over \$3000! Once again, thanks to Johnny Strong and Peter McPherson for their work in the lead up and on the day. We would also like to thank Ken Pearson and his staff at Breakers Country Club for their outstanding assistance on the day.

The Haven Education Centre was involved in The St Edwards College Open Day which is an annual event that is designed to display the school to prospective St Edwards students for 2017. It was nice to be able to discuss with future parents and other members of the school community the important role The Haven Education Centre plays in the mission of St Edwards College. It was also nice to give away some of the hundreds of pumpkins which were grown in the school garden over the summer by our students.

This term saw several exciting outings designed at re-engaging students, this was highlighted without doubt by The Haven Camp which you will read about later in the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about our Haven Happenings and that you were able to enjoy a safe and relaxing Easter break.

Cheers

Mick



## Breakfast Club

During this term the students were learning about an appreciation and a better awareness of their value as young people. We have been developing the sense of self-acceptance and belonging. The major area of PDHPE has been focused upon the better understanding and development of good eating options. To re-enforce what students have been learning in class and in weekly cooking lessons Students at The Haven have been participating in a breakfast club. This program was designed when we discovered that over 75% of our students come to school without having eaten anything. Students were shown how to make cheap healthy food options such as omelets and smoothies with the aim of providing a healthy breakfast for under \$1. The program was a huge success as it provided the majority of our students with the energy they needed to get through their day. A huge thanks to our sponsors for their financial support for without it programs like this would not be able to run.

## Brigsy





### Photo Workshop

This term students at The Haven Education Centre were lucky enough to participate in a photo workshop funded by the *Mark Moran* group and ran by professional photographer Sally Mayman and Sue Lewis. The day was aimed at connecting local school students with their community and environment. The students were provided with cameras and given basic instructions on how to take photos of their local area with a difference... something other than the standard 'selfie' so often posted on their social media walls. The students opened their minds to new ways of seeing the world in which they live and really engaged in the day. As you can see from the quality of the photos the students were extremely successful. Some of the students excelled that well that they will be awarded a certificate of achievement at the Five Lands Walk to be held on the 25th June this year. Photos taken on the day will also be able to be seen at the Macmasters Beach Surf Club at the beginning of the walk.

## Surf Report

Haven students have had the opportunity to go surfing again this term thanks to BJ's Surf School at Shelly Beach. Some students were initially a little anxious about surfing as they had never had the opportunities to go. With a little encouragement and persuasion, all students were out in the water and had a great time. Some students caught waves and stood up, others were more than happy to paddle and frolic around behind the break.

At the end of last year, the Haven purchased three shark shields to be used during water activities. The Haven is the first school to trial this new technology. The shields are not only for the purpose of protecting people from sharks, but also to alleviate any anxieties and fears. On occasions, some students asked if the shield was on, then entered the water. These were implemented for our snorkeling and surfing activities for Friday sport and for camp.

On a further note, at the latter stages of last year, the Haven purchased several waterproof digital cameras and Go-Pro Hero 4's, with the help of the Good Guys at Erina Fair. Students had great pleasure in watching some underwater footage from snorkeling at Terrigal Haven and surfing that has happened this term. These will further be used later in the year for our unit on photography. Overall, it has been an enjoyable experience for the students of the Haven.

Jay Robinson



Haven Camp – Putty Beach – 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016

**Day 1:** As usual, Haven crew locked and loaded, ready to leave at 9:20am.

We had 7 very excited boys when we arrived at Putty Beach, we had some morning tea then they paired up and Michael directed them to their camping areas so they could pitch their own tents. Of course it turned into a race and to see who could create the best camping area. With no hammers, the boys improvised by using rocks to hammer their tent pegs in, others began pumping their air mattresses up by mouths but soon realised that they had to slow down or they were going to pass out. Of course there was a winning team, Dylan & Matty P pitched their tent, blew up their air mattresses & unpacked all their gear in record time and it was great to see them then go and help those who were struggling. Daryl insisted on having his own tent. This was Daryl's first ever camp, not just for a school but ever in his life and he was beside himself when he finished setting up all by himself, he came running over to me and grabbed my hand to drag me over to look at his achievement. The vibe around the camping ground was electric. Without the distractions of any girls, all the boys just flew into hunter gather mode, collecting sticks and rocks to build shelters, chasing bush turkeys, hanging towels from trees to make a swing and rolling in big boulders to make seats. These 4 boys Matty S, Griffin, Matt L & Jake decided to put their two tents on the same area facing each other and they then proceeded to make their surroundings into their own private hanging out area. They put rocks in a line to make a clear pathway to their tents.

When everything was unpacked we all sat around the camp kitchen to have lunch before heading off to go snorkeling. The visibility wasn't that great in close but out a little bit further it did clear up a bit and some of the boys got to see corals, shells and fish. Some of the other boys just wanted to splash around in the shallows where they collected over 30 shells. Even after a couple of hours, I still had to drag them all out of the water to head back to camp for afternoon tea.

**Day 2:** Arriving back at camp in the morning, I was greeted by Daryl who was jumping all over the place because he had just slept over at camp for the very first time and he just kept saying, "That was the best night ever Shannon, that was the best night ever". He was not the only one who was buzzing around, all 7 boys were already up, dressed and fed. 'Lets go on our bush-walk now', they all said. So off we set. Mick, Brigsey and myself, 7 boys and walkie talkies in hands with bottles of water and sun-screen, we headed for the north end of Killcare. Up the wooden steps and into the bush we went onto Bullimah and then the look-out. (See photos attached). On the way back we stopped at the north end again for a swim and the boys discovered a 'natural subway' and proceeded to play in that water hole for the next hour. We then returned to camp for packing up and some lunch before heading back to The Haven.

The camp once again was a success and a great time was had by all.

Shannon Joyes



**Haven Camp 2016!!!**

## From the students

### What is your favorite thing about the Haven?

**Science:** This term we have been doing astronomy in science, one of my favourite branches of science. We have studied constellations, and other astronomical studies. The assignment this term was my favourite. What we had to do was create our own planet. Mine was called Aristotle, located in the far reaches of the galaxy and it was extremely cool. My planet was the guardian of my friend Matt's planet which is the galactic center of the Milky Way. **Matt L**

**The Haven:** ...I am Grateful for the activities that you allow us to do and I am also grateful for the food. I love that Annie is always making food and the fact that if we don't have food Annie will provide it for us. Annie treats us all like her own children and is always looking out for all of us and is always fair, you need to give Annie more money for what she does every day. She is also just a really nice person as she volunteers at homeless shelters and cooks for the not so privileged with her own money which I think is amazing. I am also thankful for the fact that we go on camps and stuff like that. Thank you Sponsors!  
**Alex**

**The Camp:** The camp was fairly good, except for the fact I got eaten alive by mosquitos, we did fishing, snorkeling, and went for a bushwalk. We had some good food too, like sausages, bacon and eggs, and chocolate biscuits. I was partnered with my friend Matt, and I found the best camping spot, it was big enough to fit two tents in. So we did. Jake and Griffin were in the other tent and we made a kind of village...

**Camp at Putty beach:** The camp this year was great because my friend Dylan found this one place on the rocks near the beach it is a very relaxing spot. We eventually named it the waterhole and it stuck... I spent most of the time at the campsite where me and my friend Griffin had to scare of the bush turkeys:) **Matt S**

**The teachers:** The best thing here at the Haven is Annie. Annie is amazing because she's like a mother to me, the mother I never had! Annie treats me like one of her own kids because she knows what we are going through. She is an amazing cook and I know she will never let us go without eating.  
**Mercedes**

## Student Work

Our novel of the term was *THE GIVER* written by Lois Lowry focusing on a dystopian society set in a futuristic world. Students have found this book very hard to put down. As a follow-up we viewed the movie that was created from the book and compared the difference between the two.

### The Giver Movie Review

Reading the book first I thought that the movie was extremely different. When I started the movie, it kind of seemed the same, and for example when we got to the Choosing, everyone got extremely different jobs. Jonas got the same, Receiver of Memory, but Asher got 'Drone Pilot' instead of 'Assistant Recreation Director' and instead of Fiona getting 'Caretaker of the Old' she got Nurturer like Jonas's dad.

The main character is Jonas, a 12 year old boy in a completely extraordinary environment. This 'utopia' is extremely weird. Everything is the same; the Leaders of the society changed many things, including daily injections that take away colour, memories and emotions. The start of the movie is almost completely black and white, with glimpses of colour, like a second where we can see the colour of the trees from Jonas's point of view. During the movie Jonas realizes that taking his injections stopped his emotions, so decided to stick an apple onto the injection machine.

My favourite character was probably Fiona, because she realizes half-way through the movie that the society is wrong, she is shown things by Jonas, things that no-one has experienced for many generations. Like riding down the massive stairway on a tray (experiencing sledding) and she understood that Jonas's goal was to fix things unlike everyone else.

My personal opinion is that this movie is for people from ages 10-12 years old. There is mild violence (Jonas hitting Asher) and the memories of war and all of the bad memories could have a negative effect on young children.

My favourite part of the movie was when Jonas was on the run and ran into the Nurturing Center to save Gabriel, where all the people were chasing Jonas, and Fiona realized she could distract them by taking a baby as well. Jonas got away and stole a bike so he could get away.

I realized a lot of differences between the book and the movie. The actors were too old; I would think that Jonas would actually be 12 instead of looking 19! The choosing ceremony was supposed to be for the Twelve's but they were WAY too old. I saw that they changed the way Jonas left the community. In the book, there was a river that Jonas and Gabe had to cross but in the movie, there was no river and the community looked like it was flying. Jonas had to ride across very different terrains like desert and snow. There was no boundary of memory in the book but it also did make more sense that there was an actual 'boundary' but in the book he just left and the memories returned.

