



Mr Peter Jones
General Secretary
Uniting Church Northern Synod
P O Box 38221
Winnellie NT 0821

28 August 2018

Dear Peter,

2017-2018 has been an incredibly busy year and one to remember with great pride as the College continues to go from strength to strength. Our approach is one of innovation and change that is consistent with the school's vision and purpose. Our existing programmes continue to be developed. Round Square is very strong with many of our Year 8 and 10 students going on challenging interstate and global exchanges, which are often life defining.

The Performing Arts department continues to produce high quality school performances and as I write this report our students are in final rehearsals for this year's musical *The Wiz*. Our well-known, well-regarded and challenging Outdoor Education programme continues to be an outstanding success. Apart from our Year 7, 8, 9, 11 camps, the Mittagundi course in the Victorian High Country is a special highlight and again we staged another programme at Wollangarra. Our Stage 2 Outdoor Ed students travelled to Mt Arapiles in Victoria as well as the Western MacDonnell Ranges near Alice Springs for their challenging course.

The College sports carnivals are always frenetic days of activities and this is counterbalanced by the consistently busy Homework Centre in the library after school. This is where students can ask staff questions after class in order to gain that little bit of extra help that could make a significant difference in their academic world.

St Philip's College has a strong focus on student and staff wellbeing and we have once again strengthened our multi-level structure. Our counsellors are located near our nurses so students' physical, emotional and social wellbeing can be supported in one location. Our pastoral care system is strong, where our highly competent Heads of Houses support our Tutor Group teachers who are also well supported by our Heads of Students. Positive Health days (for Years 7 to 10) and combined with our Positive Education classes provide significant opportunities to teach students resiliency skills necessary to counter the increasing societal challenges. In July this year twenty of our staff received specialised high-quality Positive Education training from the 'Institute of Positive Education' and are now equipped to train our students and next year we will again offer more training. This year we participated in the Resilient Youth Australia Project so we can target our teaching and continue to help St Philip's College students become more resilient.

St Philip's students excelled again in 2017 with 1 student in the NT Top 10 and 4 students in the Top 20. Kai Simpson placed in the Top 10 in the NT and Aaron Baseley, Jacob Moore and College Captain, William Radovic placed in the Top 20 in the NT. Kai also received an A+ Merit for Biology and Aaron & William each received an A+ Merit for English Literary Studies and Jacob received an A+ Merit for Business & Enterprise. Congratulations also to Melissa Reeve and Jessica Tieck who each received an A+ Merit for General Mathematics. Special congratulations also to those students who completed Pathway subjects. The College is proud of those students who completed those subjects and is developing the Pathways program and believes strongly in the opportunity to provide a broad based education crossing all areas.

For the tenth time, our students sat for a common national assessment task in numeracy, writing, reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation. Overall the results are pleasing as we are well above the Territory average. As the results were national, it has given us a good understanding of where we are placed when compared with other schools from around Australia, and it's pleasing to see we're well above the national





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average in nearly every area. Horticulture and Agriculture continue to be offered at the College and composting and bee-keeping are popular choices with the students.

St Philip's has a very positive relationship with the local community. Community service and involvement is part of the ethos of the College and is reflected in these and many other events/activities organised by students/staff and parents.

This year the College made two major announcements, the first being the acquisition of the old Alice Springs RSL site across the road from the College campus. This was a once in 30 year opportunity for St Philip's to expand its campus, and the location is ideally placed for the College. Our original parcel of land nestled between rivers and national park was purchased fifty years ago. For the College to continue providing the quality education we are known for, we have to expand. There are still conditions to be satisfied prior to settlement of the site, but we're excited at its accessibility to the main campus which will allow for the expansion of our already successful programs. The funds needed for the new site will come from the efforts of the newly established St Philip's College Foundation. Foundation Chairman, Chris Tudor AM is enthusiastically embracing this golden opportunity, as is Foundation Committee member, Mr Bruce McKay (son of College founder, Rev Dr Fred McKay).

The second major announcement was that of Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AM, Administrator of the NT, as Patron of St Philip's College. Her Honour is an inspirational woman and Territorian and is someone to be admired. Her Honour's long association with the College as a past member of our College Board and her reputation as a strategic and forward-thinking leader, makes her an ideal choice as patron during the next exciting chapter for the College. St Philip's has been part of the Alice Springs community for over 54 years and having Her Honour's support, means a lot to our community. Her Honour was delighted to accept the role of Patron of St Philip's College. The College forms an integral part of the Alice Springs community and Her Honour looks forward to supporting the ongoing hard work and achievements of staff and students.

The Board met on eight occasions with a focus on strategy, and how to position our College for our 'ever changing world'. This is to ensure our students flourish in an ever-changing world; whilst we continue embedding best practice governance.

In 2018 Mrs Leslie Tilbrook commenced as Deputy Principal, Senior School and Mr Tony Knott, Deputy Principal Middle School. During the past 12 months Mr Sean Loader commenced as Business Manager and I would like to thank our interim Business Manager, Mr Richard Price for his wise counsel during a period of great change.

The College is proud to be a school of the Uniting Church and always seeks to conduct itself in the best possible traditions of the Church. We continue with the philosophies of College founder, Rev Dr Fred McKay, Round Square founder, Kurt Hahn and past Headmaster, Chris Tudor, essentially that the tyranny of distance and isolation, should not impede the opportunities or quality of education for students at St Philip's.

The future of the College is exciting as we continue to move forward and provide the best education possible for the children in remote Central Australia.

Sincerely,

Libby Prell



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