



Boarder Parent Group Meeting

Date: 20 September 2024

Time: 2.00pm

Location: Lang House

Minutes: Carolyn Farr

Attendees:

Kate Hadwen, Lamia Rockwell, Carolyn Burgess, Katie White, Kate Inglis, Anne Graham, Beth Ayling, Mardi Cusack, Danielle Bukovinsky, Danielle Pringle, Laurel Foley, Michael & Edwina Beveridge, Carolyn Farr, Shane & Tessa McLaughlan, Kim Stanley, Dave & Tam Warren, Christian & Tara Taubenschlag, Laidley & Xanthe White, Sam & Edwina Payne, Mick & Katrina Barwick, Tom & Letitia Harrington, Christian Ti.

Apologies:

Kirsty Pockley, Denzil & Karen Peters, Jacqui Schofield.

Minutes

1. **Acknowledgment of Country:** Celeste McDermott, Head Boarder

2. **Welcome:** Edwina Beveridge, BPG President.

3. **2024/5 Boarding Leaders / Prefects**

Introduction of 2024/5 Boarding Prefects:

- Head Boarders: Celeste McDermott and Sophie Laing
- Community Spirit Prefects: Jemma Hodder and Edie Azar
- Marden House Prefect: Lola Barwick
- Goodlet House Prefect: Dezi Magann-Jones
- Avonmoore House Prefect: Alice Beveridge

Celeste & Sophie spoke about their 3 ideas for the upcoming year...

- Warmth: We will treat ourselves and each other with kindness and friendliness. Lead & show examples/acts of this regularly and follow through with fortnightly discussions with groups of girls. Be open to and in communication.
- Growth: Encouraging everyone to become their best self, help navigate all the opportunities on offer at Pymble as everyone has something to offer to the school to grow the community. Be each other's supporters in sporting, academic, social achievements.
- Service: Realising how fortunate we are and showing gratitude by giving back to our local Community. Examples: volunteering at a soup kitchen, raising money for the women's shelter. Making positive and meaningful impacts in Community.

4. **College update – Kate Hadwen, Principal**

- Acknowledged the recent passing of a young student from another school from suicide. Encouraged parents to speak to their daughters and raise any concerns with staff.
- Farewell to Katie White. Thank you for your contribution to the school and boarding, especially with "Learn It" and "Love It" programs and care for the girls. Will be missed greatly.
- 2025 Year 7 cohort is exceeding Avonmoore capacity. Have configured bedding to allow extra 2 beds. Looking at possible extension to Avonmoore.
- Academics – pleased to announce a Cambridge Partnership which will be for Year 9 & 10 students. Dr Hadwen is currently working with a Professor from the USA on different Learning



Frameworks. Projected professions which Pymble will lean towards in the next 5 years are Engineering, Construction, Aviation and Sport. Examples of how they intend to drive this is:

- Offering Recreational Pilot License Course
 - Partnership Qantas
 - Partnerships with major Construction companies
 - Project 32 – Partnership with AOC for sport
 - Partnership with a UK Football (soccer) team.
- Vision Valley – Thank you to parents for the support in this program. Results have been positive; girls have responded encouragingly and the self-advocacy of previous attendees to future attendees is amazing to hear on campus. Spoke of the involvement of boy's schools on the long-term program. Churchie Brisbane joined Pymble in Term 2 2024 and look to be doing so again in Term 2, 2025. Hope other boy's schools get onboard. UK Schools will be coming over to Vision Valley in blocks, during the school holidays.
 - Service Framework: The theme for Pymble in 2025 will be "Respect". There has been consultation with Dr Sarah Loch to understand the "Bigger Impact" Pymble can achieve if focused on one major initiative, eg: Ku-Ring-Gai Women's Shelter, which provides direct support for some girls who attend the school, as well as women and children within the local community. Speaking to students around the campus, during school assemblies and Compass groups about really showing the College values, especially being kind to themselves and to others, respect, positive relationships and consent.
 - University Scholarships - There has been a strong focus on creating partnerships with international Universities. Success with Cambridge University and hopefully a few more to come.
 - Focus in 2025: Pymble Alumni, creation of a Graduate Program and Networking project with Alumni; keep the connections alive; provide support to current and past students.
 - Invites questions...none arising.

5. **Boarding Update**

I. Lamia Rockwell, Deputy Principal

- Uniform change – keeping black watch, introducing a pant option, using better materials for comfort, breathing, design structure etc. There will be a grace period for transition.
- MMG Data – Slide show presented. Spoke of ideas and highlights emerging from the Boarding Satisfaction Student and Parent surveys.

II. Carolyn Burgess, Director of Boarding

- Thank you to the staff for continual support, special mention to Katie White who is leaving Pymble for a role at Abbotsleigh Girls School. Welcome to Theresa Mimmo (not in attendance on Year 8 camp) who will be taking on the Deputy Director position.
- Thank you, Parents, for entrusting your girls with us.
- Vertical Boarding system move has occurred.
- Highlights: Opening of Avonmoore, Dinner night at Dr Hadwen's & Mr. Bell's for each year group, other year group get togethers, Boarders Get Baking, Spirit House nights, Boarders' Week, Boarders' Mascot – Pink Panther, Boarder Parents weekend, Father's Day event. Looking forward to the Press Club event at Warrawee Bowling Club tonight and the annual Pymble Garden Party tomorrow, which is the biggest fundraising event for boarding.
- Leave process – safety of girls is paramount. WWCC will be needed for any new request. Staff will also contact the host to confirm.
- 2025 numbers: Year 7 - 18
 - Year 8 - 18
 - Year 9 - 28
 - Year 10 - 26
 - Year 11 - 25
 - Year 12 – 33
 - Total of 148 boarders which is absolute capacity. There is a current waiting list.



III. Craig Johnston, Chartwells Catering Manager

- Presented slideshow, 111967 meals cooked so far, 24 special dietary requirements catered for, 4440 different meals, 14 different cuisines.
- Boarders' food chat – works well, providing live data, concerns, complaints and positive feedback.
- Successfully delivered onto the menu some family meal favorites and desserts, boarders' free choice nights, themed dinners and special dining hall committee requests.

IV. Tessa Zwar, Library Lead

- Hopes to implement a “Boarding Families Book Club”. Suppliers will post out the books and families will meet to discuss the book. Zoom meetings are a possibility. Recent Author talk was a huge hit with students.
- Carolyn will send out a form/link to families soon.

V. Katie White, Deputy Director of Boarding

- Presented slideshow: “Learn It” program: is on supply & demand, more teachers putting their hand up to help with study/tutoring which has been great. Has seen a positive shift towards academic studies and prep time. Evening Study routine with a roster of staff. Google Doc is sent to Boarders every Monday offering 2 x 20 minute slots, waitlist applies. During busy times (assessment period) tutors allow group bookings. Math, English, Science, Business/Commerce, Geography tutors available.
- “Love It” program: great outings and fun times had by all. eg: Sister Act musical, beach days, Luna Park.

6. Opportunities for involvement – Edwina Beveridge, President BPG

- Parents Regional weekend – successful this year and hope to continue in 2025.
- Spoke about events including father/daughter and mother/daughter event, Garden Party, Icebreaker.
- BPG Meetings occur once a term. Term 1 and 3 meetings are in person and Term 2 and 4 meetings are via Zoom.
- All parents are welcome to attend the meetings.

7. General Business: Questions?

- Q: Healthcare/Access to Dr's. Is there scope for an increase in the Dr attending Healthcare for appointments?
- A: Dr Hadwen: GPs are in hot demand and that is unlikely to happen, but we will investigate.
- Q: Can more notice be given to boarder parents (eg: uniform change from winter to summer).
- A: This decision was made due to extreme temperature changes. Boarding staff were able to supply all girls with a summer uniform until theirs arrived from home.

Meeting closed 3:19pm