As an older, conservative person who doesn’t cope well with change, I am pleasantly surprised to find how quickly I have fallen in love with the new school logo. I think I am particularly attracted to the open Bible with the words, ‘A FIRM FOUNDATION’, inscribed on it. One aspect of my resistance to change is that I still have a preference for some of the old hymns that we (at least in the church I attend) don’t seem to sing anymore.

One of them is:

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent Word! what more can he say than to you he hath said who unto the Saviour for refuge have fled?

Continued on Page 2...
... From Page 1

2. In every condition - in sickness, in health, in poverty’s vale, or abounding in wealth, at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea - the Lord, the Almighty, thy strength e’er shall be.

3. “Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

4. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be with thee thy troubles to bless and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

5. “When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flames shall not hurt thee; my only design: thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

6. “E’en down to old age all my people shall prove my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love; and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

7. “The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I will not, desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake, I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!”

“How comforting it is to know that we are not ashamed of the ‘firm foundation’ of God’s Word for every part of our teaching and learning together, and that we can depend on it to get us through as a community.”

Some families in our school community have been going through some “deep waters and ‘fiery trials’ this year, and some are still in them.

There may yet be experiences that will test our faith further before the year is out.

How important a firm foundation is. How comforting it is to know that we are not ashamed of the “firm foundation” of God’s

Word for every part of our teaching and learning together, and that we can depend on it to get us through as a community.

How good it is to be reminded from the words of this old hymn that, for all those “who unto the Saviour for refuge have fled”, he’ll “never, no never, no never, forsake!”

Praise God for Shire Christian School!
Information night

I am writing this fortnight’s newsletter article immediately after a very worthwhile parent information night and the parent/teacher interviews for Year 12.

One new feature of this annual event was to create a session for all parents in the gym for 45 minutes, where they had the opportunity to get to know each other and spend time speaking with teachers.

I was motivated to run this session to provide a practical opportunity for teachers to work in a genuine, positive partnership with parents in educating our children.

While we can achieve this partnership in other ways such as through newsletters and email correspondence, in my view there is no substitute for a positive face-to-face conversation.

I did receive positive feedback about this new initiative and so I am considering trying it again next year, but possibly giving a short talk at the beginning of the session on an idea for school improvement and then giving parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss that idea.

Bus duty

Parents have probably noticed that I spend quite a few mornings on bus duty at the front of the school. I do this to try and ensure safety in the bus bay, but also to help members of the school community feel welcome as they start their day.

Being ‘out and about’ first thing in the morning has given me opportunities to casually chat to parents and students and hear their perspective on how the school is going.

Unfortunately for the next few weeks I may not be quite as visible in the playground during the school day because our school is required to submit a large amount of documentation to the government organisation BOSTES (formerly The Board of Studies) so that we can be registered and accredited.

At the end of June BOSTES inspectors will visit the school. All NSW schools are required to go through this process every 5 years.

While this is a very time-consuming exercise for our staff, I believe it is worthwhile because it requires the school to cast a critical eye over our policies and procedures to see how they can be improved for the benefit of our students.

A few examples include making substantial changes to our discipline procedures, and at the beginning of this year we thoroughly revised our approach to the anti-bullying policy.

Just a couple of weeks ago I completely rewrote the evacuation procedures and provided a briefing to staff.

While most of these policies and procedures don’t necessarily impact students on a day-to-day basis, it is important that we respond effectively to situations that may arise.

New staff

Finally, I would like to welcome two new staff members. Mr David Van Laarhoven recently started working in our IT department, taking Mrs Kayla Farrugia’s position while she is on maternity leave.

My PA, Mrs Louise Naylor, will start her maternity leave next Friday. Miss Ashleigh Donnelly has been appointed to this maternity leave position. We wish Louise and Kayla God’s blessing as they prepare for motherhood.
unveiling Shire Christian School
For Prayer and praise

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!” - Psalm 119:9-10 (ESV)

• Pray that all students in the school will live according to God’s great word and seek Him with all their heart.
• Pray for students to encourage each other in their studies and in their faith.
• Pray for students who are unhappy and struggling with friendships.
• Give thanks for the whole school information night, and the wisdom and skill God has given to the staff at our school.

Important notices

Entry not permitted in school car park at home time

For the safety of students catching buses in the afternoon, parents’ cars are not permitted in the school car park when it is home time.

A clarification about the Home Readers

• Please note that Home Readers need to be returned on Monday mornings. Children will get the new ones to take home that afternoon. There was an error in the Information Packs that were handed out this week.
• Home Readers that are returned late, can be placed in the black “Home Reader Late Box” on the IRC counter. We will endeavour to replace them by Wednesday.

Secondary Cross Country event is coming up very soon

On Friday 18 March students will be running the East Heathcote fire trail (about 3 km) and will be bused there and back during normal sport time.

As part of Calvin House’s the Run 4 Bibles fund raiser, there will be a BBQ lunch after the run.

More details to follow.

Changing arrangements with your child

Please make after-school arrangements with your children before they leave home in the mornings.

We understand that circumstances can change during the course of the day, but due to the busy nature of the School Office, we cannot guarantee that messages will reach your children before the end of the school day.
On February 16 the Values for Life program was invited to deliver an incursion workshop to Years 8 and 10 students around the issue of Drugs and Alcohol, making positive choices (Year 10), and the importance of community and being a proactive member (Year 8).

Values for Life is an incursion program for primary and secondary schools throughout Australia, offering seminars and resources that are engaging and educational on topics like bullying, cybersafety, resilience, leadership and drugs.

Through a range of interactive games, music and multimedia, students gained tools for developing resilience. Topics like peer pressure, values and decision making were covered from a Biblical framework.

Drugs and Alcohol (Year 10)
Students in Year 10 had a varied morning as they were briefed on educational material to do with drugs and alcohol, discussed statistics and played interactive games.

In these activities students covered the different reasons people use and abuse drugs and alcohol, the effects of drug use on the human body, what is alcoholism and how it differs from alcohol abuse, the different effects of different drugs and the myths about drugs, and the importance of making positive and healthy life choices which avoid drug abuse.

Students were also discussed developing resilient factors including healthy community, purpose, goals and direction.

Healthy Community (Year 8)
Year 8 explored issues of identity, peer pressure, resilience, friendship and what healthy community entails.

Students learnt that what creates real community included:

- Knowing your true identity: learn to be yourself. Don’t fake it. This helps you develop trust with others.
- Appreciating people’s differences: don’t simply “tolerate” them, but take an interest in their world and what makes them unique.
- Connecting with a broad range of people, not just your peers: we need older people to learn from and younger people to input into.
- Being people centred: take the focus off yourself. A real community will bring out the best in others.

Parent follow-up
We encourage you to chat in an ongoing way with your son or daughter about drugs, alcohol and what it means to them to be in a healthy community.

See if your son or daughter can fill you in about what they learnt or have further questions.

By Mrs Karlie Caroll, Registered Psychologist and Mr Jair Graham, Provisional Psychologist
Thank you to all parents who attended the Information Evening this week. It was great to see you.

We hope that you found the evening informative, helpful and encouraging.

One aim of the night was to provide opportunities to build connections between the school and families as we partner together in Christian Education.

We hope that you were able to meet and greet teachers and other parents. If you have any feedback you would like to pass on, please email sscs@sscs.nsw.edu.au.

AFL Auskick Sessions After School

On Tuesday all Junior School students participated in an AFL lesson. Representatives from AFL NSW came and taught a session of AFL skills to each year group.

The students had a great time practicing their kicking skills in a series of fun games.

An after-school program is being conducted by them for four weeks on Thursday afternoons this term. See page 9 for more details.
Be’s for the remainder of this Term

As you would be aware, each week we focus on a particular Christian value in our devotional times.

We have spent the first part of the year focussing on our three important focus words: safe, learn, respect.

This week we learnt how important it is to listen, focus and cooperate in the classroom to help others learn.

The remainder of the term will focus on respect, respect of one another, respect of property, showing respect by obeying, being kind, patient, forgiving and truthful.

You may like to follow up with discussions at home about these important values.

Obey straight away
Respect people and property
Be kind not selfish
Be patient not angry
Be forgiving not hurtful
Be truthful and don’t blame others
Be full of hope always and don’t give up
Some students find Reading fun and they eagerly read a wide range of texts. Others are capable readers who may be disinterested to read daily.

Some students may need further repetition and skill focus to achieve competence. If any of these descriptions apply to your child in Years 1-4, you may like to consider enrolling them in CAL English in 2016.

CAL English is a before-school program designed to revise, extend and motivate students in Reading. Students use the Literacy Planet computer program for reading fluency, comprehension and grammar.

The program is teacher supervised and runs four mornings a week at a cost of $20/week. If you are interested in enrolling your child in CAL English this year please e-mail learningsupport@sscs.nsw.edu.au

Shire Christian School  
After-School Auskick  
Thursdays: 2.45pm to 3.45pm  
10 March to 31 March  
Cost:  
$49 (Online) or $50 (cash/cheque)  
Receive an Auskick pack including a lunch bag, football, footy pump, footy cards, height chart, Sydney Swans stickers and cup.

To register visit  
www.aflauskick.com.au and search for Sutherland Shire Christian School. For more information contact Alexander: 0400 097 231
Sebastian Sara from 6W was recently awarded a Combined Independent Schools Red Award at a ceremony held at Sydney Olympic Park.

Only two of these prestigious awards are presented per gender in any sport to students who have performed exceptionally at National level.

Sebastian achieved this award by representing our school and association at the National Golf Championships late last year.

He is to be congratulated for this fantastic achievement.

As part of our focus on “Community” within the school, the P&F have decided to establish a fund to help us provide assistance to members of our community who are in need.

To get this fund started we are launching a “Coins of Care” program from next Monday.

For two weeks there will be collection jars in Junior School classrooms, while Secondary students can contribute by dropping coins in a jar at reception.

Please feel free to donate those 5c coins we all have lying about. We would love to be able to use this small change to bless families in our community in their time of need.

If you are able to help with sorting and counting coins anytime over the next two weeks, please contact Leanne Wilkes at pf@sscs.nsw.edu.au

If you become aware of a family that is in need, please contact Mr Paul Carter or Mr Brett Hartley who will pass details on to the P&F as necessary.

Thank you for your support.
Laura May in Year 11 has continued her fantastic triathlon form while competing in the NSW All Schools Competition held this week in extremely hot and difficult conditions.

Laura placed second overall, and first of the Independent Schools competitors.

She will now go on to compete in the National All Schools Triathlon being held at Harvey Bay in April.

In other news, at our Secondary Awards Ceremony this week, Laura was presented with the CIS Secondary Medallion for her representation at NSW All Schools in 2015.

This award recognises outstanding sporting achievement, exceptional commitment and dedication.

Well done, Laura, and we’re hoping everything goes well for you in your preparation and that you achieve your best at Nationals.

Mr Phil Askew, Head of PDHPE/Sport

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**Secondary Swimming Age Champions**

12 years  Hugh Robinson and Caitlin Britton
13 years  Samuel Zhang and Ashleigh Robinson
14 years  Dylan Harding and Emily Kerr
15 years  Daniel Pope and Paige Clifton
16 years  Zac Chapman and Bijou Fawcett
17 years  James Waters and Laura May
18 years  Sam Mullins and Larissa Butler

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Some of the Secondary School’s swimming age champions with their trophies.
A small but enthusiastic team represented our school at the secondary Zone Swimming Carnival held at Engadine Leisure Centre on Friday 26 February 2016.

Those who represented the school did so admirably, with a number of swimmers placing in their races. The school ultimately came fourth in the Zone on the day.

Congratulations to Ashleigh Robinson (Year 7) and Larissa Butler (Year 12) who were respectively named as the 13 years and 18 years Girls Zone Champions.

A number of swimmers have made it through to the CSSA Secondary State Swimming Carnival to be held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre on Monday 21 March 2016. - Mrs Linda Waters

**Qualifiers for State competition held on 21 March**

- **Ashleigh Robinson**: 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 200 IM, 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke
- **Larissa Butler**: 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 200 IM, 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke
- **Grace Jacobson**: 200m Freestyle, 200 IM, 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke
- **James Waters**: 100m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle, 200 IM, 50m Breaststroke
- **Paige Clifton**: 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke, 4 x 50m Relay and Med relay
- **Daniel Pope**: 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle
- **Samuel Zhang**: 50m Breaststroke
- **Benjamin Jolly**: 100m Freestyle
- **Bijou Fawcett**: 4 x 50m Relay and Med relay
- **Jade Harding**: 4 x 50m Relay and Med relay
- **Julia Jacobson**: 4 x 50m Relay and Med relay
- **Intermediate Girls relay has qualified for Freestyle and Medley**, they are: Bijou Fawcett, Jade Harding, Julia Jacobson, Paige Clifton

**Zone Age Champions**

Larissa Butler, 18 years girls (left), and Ashleigh Robinson, 13 years girls
Year 10 Geography students recently had the opportunity to conduct a fieldtrip in Cronulla.

The trip enabled students to see Coastal Management strategies they have been studying in class.

Students observed the various strategies used by council to manage Cronulla’s coastline and were able to undertake primary geographical research at the Wanda sand dunes.

Students observed the urban growth and decline impacts of both the Greenhills Australand development and Cronulla apartment developments on the local environment.

Overall, students enjoyed the day and found it a valuable learning experience outside the confines of the classroom.

By Mr Scott Newton, Teaching Staff
A sizzling performance at Hockey

By Mr Phil Askew, Teaching Staff

...our students put in a high energy, whole-hearted performance, and noticeably developed their skills and teamwork throughout the course of the day. This great group of students has continued the legacy that Mrs Susie Arthur left behind in playing with great spirit and enthusiasm, being competitive in every game. Special thanks should go to Mr Tsang who came along as our very expert parent-coach and who did an outstanding job in trying conditions, along with recent Shire Christian School students (and former hockey gala day players) Tim Griffiths and Bronte Conroy, who did a great job coaching the seniors.

It was unfortunate, however, that we went down 2-0 in our final and most important game to the Illawarra Christian team, coached by former staff member and renowned villain, Mr David Russell. Tim did at least beat Mr Russell in the juggle-off preceding the game.

Congratulations to Morgan and Tamsin Tsang for their selection the the CSSA representative sides on the day. We hope you will enjoy the experience, as well as being able to develop your skills in elite company.

On a day that was so hot that if you dropped your sandwich it instantly became a toastie...
kinder and year six Buddies
Q. What do Year 12 2011, bagpipes, unicycle, maths, Computer Engineering, UNSW, Robocup, Microsoft Seattle all have in common?

A. David McKinnon!!

Thirty seven students were given a treat at lunchtime on Monday when David came and spoke about his life at Shire Christian School, his study habits and his transition to University of NSW to study computer engineering.

He elaborated on his experiences of being on the UNSW Robocup Team in Germany defending their title as world champions, what he is doing for his honours thesis this year, his internships over the last two summer holidays at Microsoft Seattle and his permanent contract with the tech giant starting next year.

It was a delight to have David with us and give the current students at Shire Christian advice and inspiration, while answering their enthusiastic (and numerous!) questions.

David is great example of a young Christian man pursuing a career he loves and is good at. (And, yes, David is an accomplished bagpiper and unicyclist!)

By Mrs Robyn Buchanan, Careers
Bagpipe boogie

Thank you to David McKinnon (class of 2011) who demonstrated the bagpipes to some of the music classes this week. It was quite an experience to hear the bagpipes from so close up! Read more about David on page 16.

Year 12 parents and students meet the teacher
Perhaps you’ve seen men or women in a hi-viz vest on a city street corner selling a magazine called *The Big Issue* and wondered what it’s all about? Is it political? Religious? Why haven’t I seen it in the magazine rack at Woolworths?

The Big Issue is the publication of an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to creating job opportunities and supporting homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people. Simply put, it’s not a handout. They help people help themselves.

The Big Issue run social enterprises to create employment for people who are unable to access mainstream jobs. These enterprises operate much like businesses, except all revenue is put back into the enterprises, benefiting not only the individuals involved, but also broader community.

The participants come from a range of backgrounds including mental illness, homelessness, long-term unemployment, intellectual and physical disability, as well as drug and alcohol dependency.

The Big Issue not only provides an income-earning opportunity, but importantly builds confidence in individuals to make a positive and significant contribution to their own future.

John Bird was born in London in 1946 to a poor London Irish family. By his early 20s he’d been to prison and lived rough on the streets of Edinburgh, eventually becoming a publisher. In 1991 Bird and Gordon Riddick, multi-millionaire co-founder of The Body Shop, conceived and established The Big Issue, a publication edited by professional journalists but sold as a social entrepreneurship by homeless vendors. Bird has been a vocal critic of soup kitchen-style handouts.

In 1993 a group of prominent Australians came together to explore solutions to help address Australia’s increasing homeless population. They proposed a model based on the UK’s successful street magazine model.

The Big Issue vendors are usually found in the city of Sydney and many other places around Australia. Purchasing the monthly magazine for $7 is a great way to support those who are homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged.

Every issue covers a wide range of topics (spanning the arts, entertainment, culture and politics) and features a Vendor Profile which gives a personal insight into the lives that are being helped by this enterprise.

I’ve found that vendors are often up for a chat and that buying The Big Issue is an easy way for me as a Christian to offer my practical support to the homeless in a meaningful and empowering way.

**Dates to Remember**

- UNSW Built Environment invites you and your family to attend an information evening with academic staff and current students. Wednesday 16 March: 6pm–8.30pm UNSW Built Environment Ground Floor Gallery Red Centre West Wing Building UNSW Australia, Kensington. The faculty of Built Environment includes Industrial Design, Computation Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, City Planning and Construction Planning and Property.

- UNSW Science and Engineering have teamed up to present an information evening for Year 11 and 12 students and their parents. The event is designed to give high school students an insight into the degrees on offer from UNSW Engineering and Science. Wednesday 23 March 5.30pm–8pm UNSW Kensington Campus, John Niland Scientia Building. Register at unsw.to/2016-student-parent
How far off is a driverless car? Twenty years? Ten years? The head of Microsoft Australia believes that within just two years many new cars will possess driverless functionality.

A small group of Year 10 and 11 students were among those who experienced a fascinating and mind-stretching event at The University of Technology’s Big Day In in Broadway this week.

Speakers from the worlds of finance, technology and the arts provided insight into the many opportunities for study and employment in their particular industries as more and more aspects of life, work and industry become digitised.

Rather than approaching future studies thinking, “Technology or music?” or “Business or technology?” or “Automotive or technology?” the Big Day In informed - and at times amazed - students with the ways tech skills no longer stand alone, but have become integrated across the marketplace.

For example, a young entrepreneur responsible for multiple start-ups told of how important learning elementary coding had become to the success of her business.

Animators and compositors from special effects supremos Animal Logic demonstrated how their highly technical (and highly creative) work shapes what we see on the big screen. They’re currently working on The Lego Movie sequel!

The Big Day In was a great opportunity for students to be broadened, inspired and encouraged to see what is possible, should they choose to pursue study in this dynamic and fast-changing area.

Regardless of their ultimate career choice, Shire Christian School students gained an arresting insight into how technology is shaping our communities, our workplaces and our futures.

Georgia Butler: “Before today I was not interested in IT at all, but after listening to the speakers, I realised there is a lot more to do with computers than I thought. I learnt there is a wide variety in IT.”

By Mrs Robyn Buchanan, Careers
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<td>CSSA State Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Year 10 Career Testing</td>
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<td>Year 7 Music Excursion Sydney Symphony Orchestra</td>
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<td>Fri 18 March</td>
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<td>Secondary Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<td>Calvin House Fundraiser Event (incl Secondary Cross Country)</td>
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**Community Corner**

**March Charge Cancer fundraiser**

Alumna Caitlin Frede is participating in *The March Charge Run* to raise awareness and funds for cancer research, after her father passed away from the disease.

You can donate by going to: https://marchcharge2016run.everydayhero.com/au/caitlin-7

**3Bridges Community Market**

3Bridges, a not for profit organisation that run programs and events in response to community needs, are holding a community market at Parc Menai on Saturday 21 March from 9am to 3pm. Details on their Facebook page.

**CRU Holiday Camps**

- **Day Camp** for K-6: 18-22 April at Galston Gorge
- **Activity Camp for Years 4-6**: 11-15 April at Lake Macquarie, includes sailing, canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing, archery, laser tag, beach day, night games and interactive Bible talk.
- **Activity Camp for Years 7-11**: 18-22 April at Lake Macquarie, includes sailing, abseiling, rock climbing, messy games, log wrestle, night games and interactive Bible talk.
- **Study Camps for Year 12**: 11-16 April and 16-22 April at Galston Gorge

Details and registration: www.cru camps.com.au or call 9874 8933

*Items in Community Corner of the newsletter are placed at the discretion of the School. However, the School does not endorse any such item.*