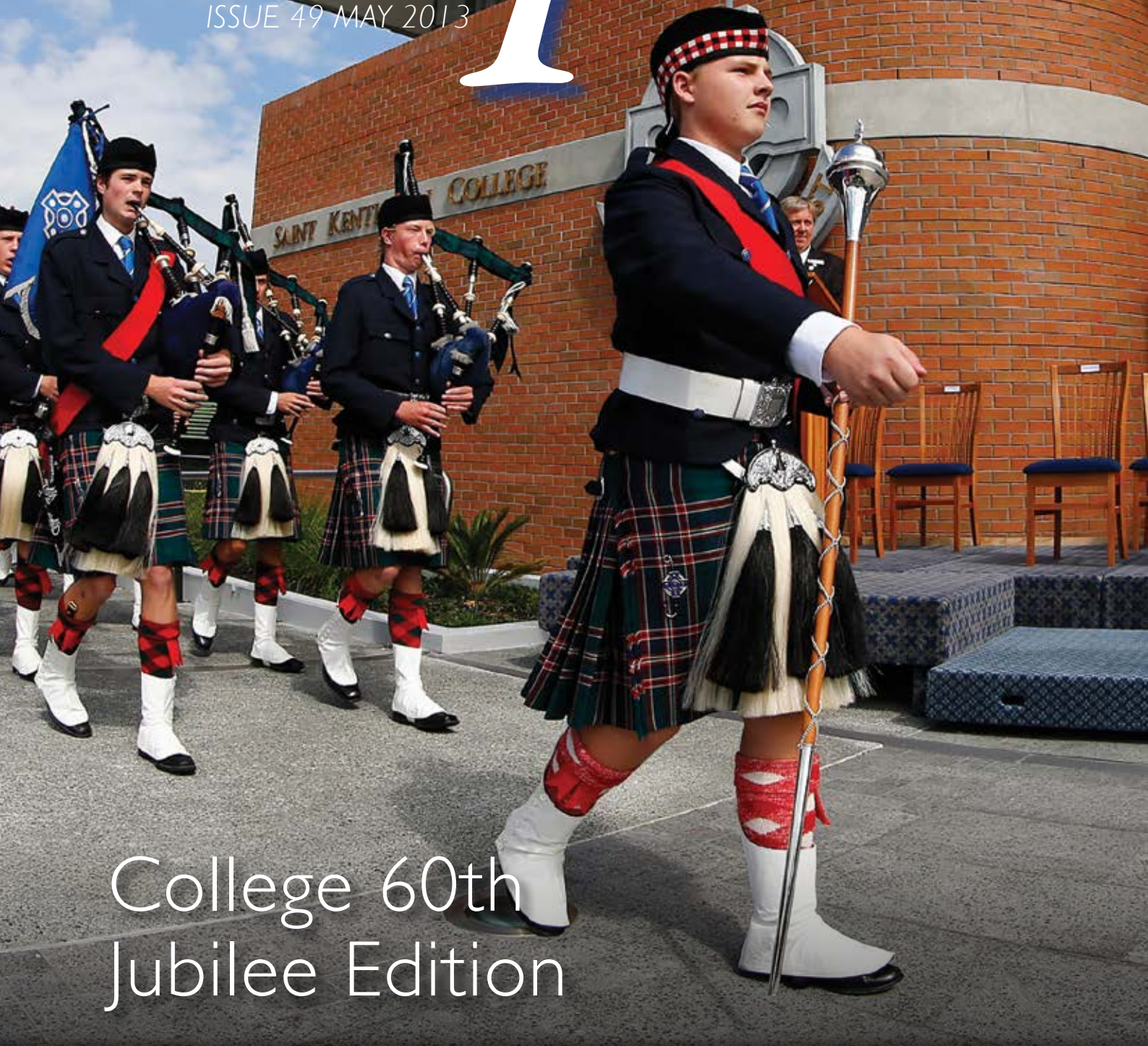


Piper

ISSUE 49 MAY 2013



College 60th
Jubilee Edition



SAINT KENTIGERN

A MAGAZINE FOR THE
SAINT KENTIGERN
COMMUNITY

Butterfly Creek

It requires quite some logistics to take 52 excited small children and 30 adults on a trip away from Preschool for a day but the trip to Butterfly Creek in March was well worth it, with plenty of new learning opportunities for the children. A jaw-dropping 4 metre crocodile leaping to get a fish off a stick was an exciting start before all the children had the opportunity to say they have held a live crocodile...albeit a baby!

The 'Butterfly House' was hot and humid – a taste of the tropics. The children were fascinated when the delicate butterflies landed on them. They could also spot turtles, water dragons, blue tongued skinks, bearded dragons and cotton topped monkeys whose antics were intriguing.

'Bugs About' saw the children get up close to creeping wetas, cockroaches, locusts and tarantula spiders. Unlike their caregivers, the Preschoolers were too young to be squeamish about creepy crawlies! 'Buttermilk Farm' was another favourite for holding baby rabbits, guinea pigs, milking a goat and seeing and smelling a farm experience with pigs, calves, chickens and sheep. Being there all day meant the children had lunch with their friends and parents before heading onto the 'Red Admiral Express' for a train ride around the wetlands.

52 sleepy children and 30 exhausted adults boarded the bus to return to Preschool. The day out inspired some great art work, language activities and further learning opportunities to occur.



An Easter Visitor

It was an exciting morning for our preschoolers as they awaited the arrival of a special visitor – the Easter Bunny. The children invited him to join mat time to hear them sing the 'Mr Bunny looks funny' song before he led the children on a neighbourhood walk along Remuera and Ranui Roads, where they stopped to visit the Girls' School during morning tea.

Back at Preschool, the Bunny explained that he had hidden eggs for each of the children out in the garden. There would be one big egg and two small eggs, one gold and one red, for each to find. The children were handed special egg collecting containers and, with great anticipation, the children rushed outside to join the hunt. Once each had found the correct amount of eggs, the children were invited for a photo opportunity with the Bunny. The children thought it was a great morning!

Rearing Chicks

The children returned to Preschool after Easter weekend to find the arrival of 3 - 4 day old baby chicks. They had come from the Easter Show farm and were still very little, yellow and fluffy. A temporary new home was built for them in our indoor water trough which had straw, sawdust and a light bulb to keep them warm. Every day the children watched them grow. They fed them, held them, looked after them, watched them explore outside in the sun. After 10 days at Preschool they had outgrown their home and left to go and live at one of our children's family farms in Dairy Flat.





Mini Titans / Lil' Amazons

The fun and laughter that exudes from the children during their Mini Titans and Lil' Amazons morning has shown how successful this new initiative is at Preschool. Mini Titans for boys and Lil' Amazons for girls engages a philosophy of children learning through play and it brings a sport and social skills programme to Saint Kentigern Preschool each Tuesday morning. Children have the opportunity to have highly skilled, trained and motivated independent Coaches come to work with them. Led by Coach Nick, Coach Charlie, Coach Harrison, Coach Leo, Coach Dave and Coach Jack lead the children in the activities. It gives our Preschool children the chance to increase their fitness, improve their balance and co-ordination, their self-confidence, EQ resilience, perseverance, increase spatial awareness, improve listening skills, gain team work and build a broad base with new sporting activities – that will be used throughout their life. Our children love it – their enthusiasm, motivation and excitement is evident in a great programme.



Our Scottish Heritage

Our preschoolers are welcomed each year, to join the School children as they celebrate Saint Kentigern's Scottish heritage. Just a step outside the Preschool gates, the girls joined in with the Flora MacDonald Day celebrations. They loved dressing up in tartan to march behind the College Pipes and Drums before entering the hall to sing Scottish songs and watch the Sword Dance. The Transition girls joined Mrs Bennett for the rest of the day joining in the activities.

Twenty excited boys boarded the mini bus for their trip to the Boys' School for Celtic Day. They too marched behind the band around the big field before joining the formal celebrations 'boy style' in the Jubilee Sports Centre. Before returning to Preschool, some were brave enough to try haggis – others weren't so sure of the culinary fare on offer and just watched!



Register ahead of time

We welcome enquiries from families who would like to have a personal tour of our facilities for girls and boys aged 3-4. For more details on how to arrange an appointment to view the Preschool in session and meet with the Preschool Director, Mrs Sue Nash, please contact Julie Rand who will be happy to assist with your enquiries: Phone 09 520 7696 Email: julie.rand@saintkentigern.com

PRESCHOOL
Enrolling your Child

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