

Expressions of Interest

College Board & Subcommittees



To Strive, To Seek, To Care with Heart



A Uniting Church School

Spirit of St Philip's

The Spirit of St Philip's is based on the hard work and dedication of its founder, Rev Dr Fred McKay as well as the commitment, generosity and diligence of past and current staff, students, parents and friends.

College Founder, Rev Dr Fred McKay (successor to the Rev John Flynn) established the College originally as a boarding facility for children of families living in remote areas in Central Australia who needed access to schools.

Fred McKay lobbied the United Church in the Northern Territory to build and expand on the important work of the Reverend Harry Griffiths.

Together the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches embarked on a missionary venture to develop St Philip's College which would one day become a full boarding school.

An ideal site - 22 acres of bush at the junction of the Charles and Todd Rivers and backing on to the Telegraph Station National Park - was secured and after six years of planning, construction began in 1964.

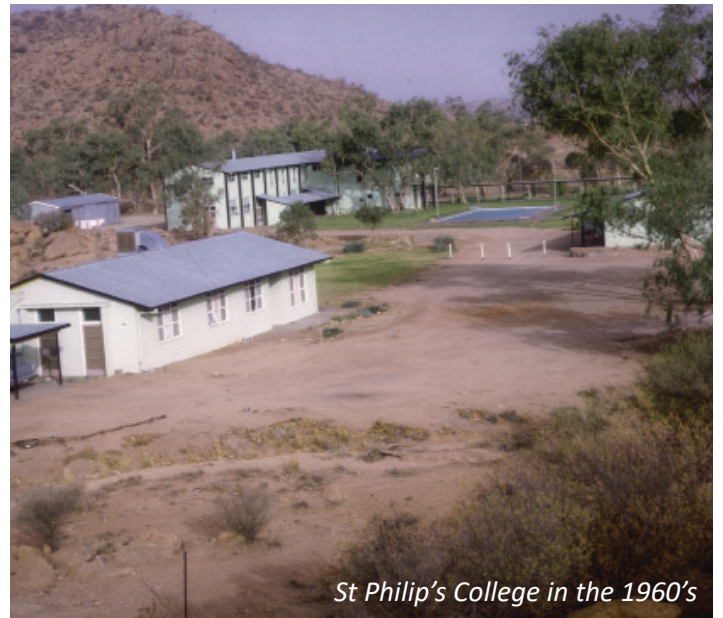
Fred McKay led the legendary work parties comprised of volunteers from all over Australia who travelled to Alice Springs, paying their own way and volunteering their expertise, time and labour, to turn a dream into a reality. This fantastic tradition continues today, with work parties arriving each mid-year holiday.

On 13 February 1965 the first boarders moved in to St Philip's College. For the first 24 years, therefore, St Philip's College operated as a residential hostel only. The College's ninth Headmaster, Mr Christopher Tudor, arrived in 1986. He and the then Council Chair, Mrs Jan Heaslip, judged that the time was right to complete the original plan to turn St Philip's College into

a fully fledged independent boarding/day school, serving not only "bush" families, but also the growing population of Alice Springs.

The College Council embraced the idea and three years of frantic, determined preparation and planning commenced, culminating in an extensive building program in 1988.

To this day there continues to be further development with the recent opening of the Discovery Precinct which includes the Discovery Centre as well as the Sustainable Learning Centre.



St Philip's College in the 1960's



Our Motto

'To Strive, To Seek, To Care' with HEART

Our Vision

Discovering our place in the world through adventurous education.

Our Mission

Provide high quality education in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment in Central Australia that inspires lifelong learning and holistic character development.

Our Values & Commitment

To strive to be our best, to seek to find the truth, to care for ourselves, our friends and all who are around us from the HEART. In everything we do we live the values of Honesty, Engagement, Acceptance, Respect and Trust inspired by our Christian ethos and our place locally and globally.



About St Philip's College

Located in Alice Springs, capital of Outback Australia, St Philip's College is a Uniting Church co-educational Boarding and Day School for students in Years 7 - 12.

With strong academic excellence and widely accredited Outdoor Education and Performing Arts programs, St Philip's College provides opportunities for students that will endeavour to develop their individuality, strengthen leadership skills and create a well rounded individual, prepared for life after school.

The student population is 530 including 33 boarders who come mainly from remote communities throughout Central Australia. Boarders have also come from the islands off the north coast of the NT, to Coober Pedy in South Australia and the Kimberleys in WA.

Students follow educational pathways in the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training with every student having the opportunity to participate in national and overseas exchanges or international service projects.

In 2026 the College celebrated 60 years of boarding.

The College is currently a member of the AISNT (Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory) with the Principal being a member of AHISA (Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia).



Our Facilities

The College is blessed with modern, well-equipped, world class facilities and these include:

Discovery Centre - designed to be a multipurpose learning environment, filled with natural light, modern technology and collaborative spaces. It is strategically located adjacent to the Swag Chapel and the Sustainability Centre to support teaching and learning opportunities with a focus on our commitment to challenge (To Strive), inspiration (To Seek), and environmental sustainability (To Care)—core elements of our motto.

Fred McKay Education Centre - designed as a memorial to the late Rev Dr Fred McKay. It was funded by public subscription to an appeal launched by St Philip's College, of which Rev McKay was the founder and patron. It has a 140 seat theatre, two classrooms, industrial kitchen, museum and offices.

Chris Tudor Centre - has a Science lab, Food Tech lab, classrooms, offices, restaurant and the Rivergum Café which is open during term time for students, staff and parents.

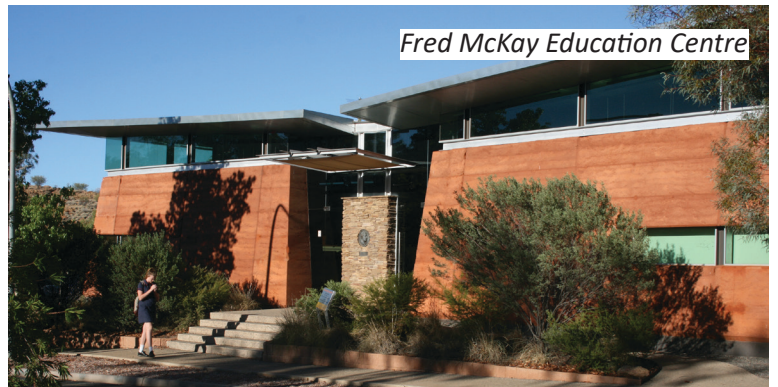
The Minnamurra Hall - a multi-functional community hall. It has a flat timber floor, band pit and stage making it suitable for theatre productions, concerts, seminars, exhibitions, dances and low impact sport, e.g. gymnastics.

Bruce Reid Sports Centre - has 3 multipurpose courts, the largest climbing wall in Alice Springs, fully equipped gymnasium, offices and classrooms.

Swag Chapel - is a rustic 'bush chapel' completed by the hands-on approach of staff, students and past students, as well as students who attended the Australasian Round Square Conference in April, 2006. Students dug footings, painted, moulded window fittings, moved boulders etc. and it has been the venue for weddings, naming ceremonies and memorials.



Discovery Centre



Fred McKay Education Centre



Chris Tudor Centre



Our Students

Our student body reflects Alice Springs' multi-cultural mix of people, most of whom have come from somewhere else.

Our families include scientists, linguists, teachers, nurses, tradespeople, sociologists, anthropologists, palaeontologists, computer experts, defence personnel and a large American community servicing the US-Australia joint defence force facility at Pine Gap. Our parents also manage cattle stations, are social workers, store keepers, administrators, police, mining company employees and members of isolated Aboriginal communities.

An overall sense of family and community is the hallmark of not only our school community but our boarding community. Most of our boarders come from communities within a five hour radius of Alice Springs and also from Tennant Creek and Yulara.

A strong international flavour is injected by exchange and GAP students who come from all over the world.



Our Families

Our families acknowledge the most common reasons for choosing St Philip's is our reputation for academic excellence, comprehensive pastoral care and wellbeing, our renown Outdoor Education and Performing Arts programs and the extensive territory, national and international sporting and cultural opportunities the College offers.

St Philip's College is proud to provide international opportunities in a remote, rural setting.



Our Staff

We are fortunate to have a great blend of experienced, long term staff and young, enthusiastic teachers.

The College has 120 staff and prides itself on its ability to provide opportunities for its teaching staff that enable them to develop their teaching skills, interests and strengthen their leadership skills within a warm, caring and supportive team environment.

Our staff often advocate the sense of community and support offered to them whilst they commit to the values, spirit and ethos of the College.



Wellbeing/Chaplaincy

St Philip's pays particular attention to the care, guidance and encouragement given to each individual student. All teachers, by nature of their job, are involved in pastoral care. The House system also provides a structured opportunity for individual and small group relationships between staff and students.

The College offers a REVS (Religion, Ethics, Value and Spirituality) program which relates to the students' ages and reflects societal trends while strongly maintaining the ethos of the Uniting Church. The College Chaplain plays an important role in the pastoral care of the College community providing spiritual leadership for the College, and is available as a pastoral listener and organises worship services.

The role is combined with the development of wellbeing within the College and there is a whole school approach to this service. The College has an outward and responsible attitude to the community and fosters in children an appreciation of the value of belonging to and contributing to their community.



Academic Curriculum

St Philip's College aims for a high standard of academic achievement and this is reflected in our Year 12 students often placing in the Top 10 and Top 20 of the Northern Territory.

We offer programs and support which provide more than just a good academic outcome and we encourage all students to realise their potential.

In recent years our students have been awarded many Territory and national awards and scholarships. We are exceptionally proud of our academic and pathways success.



Outdoor Education

St Philip's Outdoor Education Program has been judged truly outstanding by educators and Outdoor Education professionals from all over Australia. The focus for the College's expeditions is the spectacular MacDonnell and Chewings Ranges in Central Australia and the Victorian Alps. The Outdoor Education expeditions are cited by many students, past and present, as being the highlight of their time at St Philip's.

Outdoor Education at St Philip's College focuses on programs that develop self awareness, self esteem, leadership, communication skills, self confidence and a real belief in themselves and their abilities.





Performing Arts

The College has a vibrant Performing Arts program including an exciting range of extracurricular activities after school and at lunch times. These include opportunities to learn a range of instruments, to join various College bands and choirs and perform in a variety of drama and dance projects with full production backing.

The College has excellent Performing Arts facilities, resources and industry trained staff, and also provides the opportunity to learn technical production skills and crew lighting, sound and backstage for our numerous productions.

Sport

Sport is huge at St Philip's!

Sports are played on a House, interschool, intra-town, intra-state and inter-state basis. Staff and senior students coach a large number of St Philip's teams playing in town competitions in a variety of sports including cricket, basketball, netball, volleyball, soccer, AFL and rugby league.

The Bruce Reid Sports Centre with 3 multi-purpose courts, climbing wall and fully-equipped gym allows our students to compete in all weather conditions.



Round Square

The fundamental character of the College is guided by the philosophy of Round Square, and St Philip's is a very active member of this prestigious association of international schools.

Membership of Round Square provides opportunities for St Philip's students to travel as exchange students to other schools in Australia and overseas and to participate in international projects initiated by any of the member schools. Each year staff and students attend the junior and senior Australian schools conference and the international conference.



Community Service

Under the Round Square pillar of Service, St Philip's College staff and students participate in local, national and international service projects.

Staff and students often give up their holidays to travel to Asia, Africa and South America to assist in many deserving community projects. They can range from digging wells for a better water supply in Asia, building a classroom in a school in Africa, building a storage facility in a village in Honduras or building a community hall in a village on Tanna Island, Vanuatu.



Our College Community

Our Parents' and Friends' Association is a small group of enthusiastic parents and consists of a four member committee which includes a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings are held four times a year and the Principal and Deputy Principals attend to update parents on school matters and developments.

The College alumni group, Old Saints, has been established for many years and maintains the connections with former students through a Facebook presence. Ten and twenty year reunions are held annually for former Year 12 students.

The staff Social Club hold different social events throughout the year for members and their families and also provide services for staff to assist in making their work place more enjoyable.



Our Structure

St Philip's College is an interdependent community of students, staff, parents, former students, friends of the College, the Board and, in the case of St Philip's College - by virtue of its foundation - the Uniting Church.

The College runs as an independent private secondary College within the auspices of the Northern Synod and is an agency of the Uniting Church Northern Synod. On 26th September 2019, St Philip's College incorporated and on 1st January 2020, all operations of the College were transferred to a company limited by guarantee.

The Board is the guardian of the College's purpose (or Mission). It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that the purpose is appropriate to the College's history and traditions, and relevant to the community it currently serves. The Board monitors the extent to which the College is fulfilling its purpose.

The Board has the ultimate responsibility for the successful operation of the College, but the Principal is delegated with full responsibility for its management and leadership.

The Board looks to the Principal to provide inspirational and transformative leadership in all aspects of College life.

The Board comprises up to nine directors, two of whom shall be appointed by the Northern Synod.

The Board operates a number of subcommittees, including a Finance & Audit Committee, Planning & Infrastructure Committee, Governance & Risk Committee and Foundation Committee.

The Principal as Executive Officer and the Board Chair are members of all Board committees. All subcommittees report regularly to the Board.

The Board meets up to seven times per year with one of those meetings being an extended strategic retreat.

The College's finances are in a stable and healthy condition, with low debt.

Current members of the College Board can be found on the College website: <https://www.stphilips.nt.edu.au/about-spc/college-board-and-governance>

St Philip's College Board members are also Board members of St Philip's College Pty Ltd.



Our Governance

Our Board Membership represents divergent views and we encourage robust discussion. Skills have been identified in accordance with our Skills Matrix, measured and complementary to each other; succession planning is an annual agenda item. The quality of individual members, the skills they possess and their ability to contribute effectively to group discussion are critical factors to the success of our Board.

'Its important to get a broad cross-section of talent because the skill of the board is not individual skills, but the collective wisdom'. (Foley & Nicholas – 'Board Tenure a new Battleground' – The Australian Review)

Board Requirements

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interest for present and future vacancies. Appointments are for an initial period of three years.

The St Philip's College Board is focussed on best-governance, considering and setting strategy and empowering, enabling, supporting and ensuring accountability of our Principal in their leadership of the school community.

The role, includes strategy development, financial performance, ensuring appropriate performance goals are set and achieved and that risk is appropriately managed. This is done in the context of taking into account the interests of the College, students, other stakeholders and the pursuit of our vision to be a 'world-class school community the excels at striving, seeking and caring'.

Candidates with skills in the following areas are encouraged to lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI):

- An understanding of the Australian independent education industry
- An understanding of and commitment to excellence in education
- Business acumen in either for profit or not for profit corporations
- A sound understanding of corporate governance
- Well-developed communication skills, with a collaborative approach
- Willingness to make an active contribution to strategic and Board discussion
- A commitment to the ethos of the Uniting Church.

Subcommittees: are the workhorses of the Board.

They focus on the detail. Board members cover particular technical requirements, with non-board subcommittee members providing wider, deeper or unmet requirements. Subcommittees report and make recommendations to the Board. Subcommittee's meet the week prior to the Board meeting or on an 'as required' basis.

There are also a number of subcommittee vacancies, where particular expertise would be welcomed. EOI for consideration to join a subcommittee as an external (non-board) member would be welcomed.

Current subcommittees are:

- Finance & Audit
- Governance & Risk
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Foundation



Board Requirements *continued*

Note: Non-board member subcommittee positions offer a pathway to board membership with both parties having the opportunity to learn and consider commitment.

Our Skills Matrix will be used to guide selection of incoming board members:

Board threshold Every board member should meet these criteria	Representations	Particular Skills	Strategy requirements Particular present requirements
Commitment Integrity Credibility Developing corporate or local community relationships Commitment to supporting the ethos of the Uniting Church	Alice Springs Residents Parent (current or past) Endorsed by the Uniting Church (Two Directors) Indigenous Community Leader Approaching Gender Balance	Leadership in business, government or not-for-profits Education (current or non current) Finance & Accounting Governance & Strategy Risk Infrastructure	Age Diversity Innovation / Digital Technology Strategic Workforce, HR and Culture Fundraising



Application Process

Where to from here?

On receipt of this document, submit your Expression of Interest and include all of the following:

A Curriculum Vitae (brief and relevant) listing your personal details, association memberships, qualifications, relevant experience and a cover letter outlining your interest in governance at St Philip's College.

Email Expressions of Interest to: chairman@stphilips.nt.edu.au

Further enquiries may be directed to: chairman@stphilips.nt.edu.au or call 0418 443 541

Please note that applicants with high skill levels, experience and good fit may not progress to interview, or be offered a position due to the overall mix and balance of the Board and that this is not a reflection on the person.





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