IN THE NEWS

A return for PAC head

PRINCE Alfred College has appoint- ed Bradley Fenner as its new head master, replacing Ken Tutt, who has spent 10 years at the school.

Mr Fenner has been headmaster at King’s College in Auckland, New Zealand, since 2009 and before that was prin- cipal at Westminster School in Adelaide for 10 years.

He will take up the role at PAC on September 1.

Mr Tutt will leave the school at term’s end, on April 11, to be- come head of teaching and learn- ing at the Cambro- dian Children’s Fund in Phnom Penh.

College chair- man John Reeves said Mr Fenner was an experienced and respected school leader and educator.

“Bradley is the ideal person to lead Princes at this time,” he said. “We are delighted that he has agreed to join us and look forward to welcoming him and his family back to Adelaide.”

- JORDANNA SCHRIEVER

Where there’s a Will

Being bushfire smart

YEAR 11 geography students from Rostrevor College have left the classroom and headed to the Adelaide Hills to find out more about bushfires.

The trip started with a tour at the Greenhill CFS station, to learn about risk assessment, before exploring examples of real bushfire action plans and learning how to be prepared.

The group also visited the Yarrawee Rd site, Mount Lofty Summit, Cieland Fire Trail, Wooradina Reserve and Steam- roller Park. They finished at the Stirling CFS station, where students were shown how to use a fire hose.

Geography teacher and CFS volunteer Michael Vickery said bushfire education could be taught to students all year round. He is teaching bushfire education as part of geography.

“The unit aims to give students the tools and knowl- edge needed to understand environmental influences on bushfire behaviour and how human activities add to or miti- gate against this risk,” he said.

Year 11 student Zachary Reardon said the opportunity to spurt the high-pressure hoses from the CFS fire trucks was a highlight.

-MARTINA SIMOS

Newspapers offer a lesson in life

MARTINA SIMOS

CURIOUSITY has produced some new experiences for little learners at a local kindergarten.

When bundles of newspapers began arriving in their room, the young-sters began asking staff at the Angle Vale Preschool all sorts of questions.

Teacher Lizzie Renner said from the start children enjoyed having their own copy of the newspaper while sitting on the floor to explore.

“Some of them it was about turning the pages because the newspapers make a sound,” she said.

“Turning the pages requires some hand-eye co-ordination. Some had to work out which way the pages turned. There was a lot of problem solving. “It was about waiting and letting the children discover things.”

So for the next two weeks the class of three to five-year- olds asked questions, cut out, pasted and made connections using the newspaper.

The project culminated in a book, into which the children had pasted their findings from The Advertiser – such as numbers, sports players and food pictures.

The staff sent it to Newspapers in Education to show how the exercise linked with many of the outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework, such as sharing, expression and promoting a sense of community.

Ms Renner said this was the first time the kindergarten had used newspapers and many of the children knew what a newspaper was but hadn’t related it to their lives. “It’s about making connections and discoveries – it’s hands-on investigation,” she said.

- MARTINA SIMOS

MARTINA SIMOS EDUCATION WRITER

AMONG the crowd at the Sydney Opera House, waiting to greet the royal couple, the Duke and Duchess of Cam- bridge, will be Year 12 Merce- des College student Ellen Watson.

Ellen, who describes herself as a royalist, is determined to meet the couple in some way.

As part of her Year 12 re- search project, she wrote to Kensington Palace inviting the couple to visit Mercedes Col- lege for the school’s 60th anni- versary celebrations. The Duke and Duchess’s staff replied promptly, thanking her for the suggestion.

“I thought I would get a reply eventually but I didn’t think I would get it as soon as I did,” she said. “I was hopeful, but I didn’t think they would say yes.”

As part of her research, Ellen used Facebook to survey 200 people aged 16 to 21 on their views of the British monarchy.

“I’m investigating how the British monarchy is relevant to Australian youth (and) seeing how people of my age view the monarchy, because it’s not the most normal obsession people of my age have,” she said.

“It was surprising – a lot of people don’t want a republic but don’t think the monarchy is relevant.”

The idea for the research project was driven by her in- terest in the royal family and a recent trip to England.

“People ask me why I like them, so it’s interesting to see why some don’t,” she said. “If some people say they are not relevant to us any more, why do people think that?”

Ellen hopes to meet the roy- als at a function in the north- ern suburbs.

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