



# BUILDING THE FUTURE

A NEW HOUSE STRUCTURE FOR THE KING'S SCHOOL



**The King's School is delighted to announce the most significant upgrade of the School's House system in many decades. Those with a knowledge of The King's School will be aware that its House structure has changed many times in order to meet new needs and to accommodate better standards of pastoral care. We are about to embark on another period of restructuring and upgrading of our pastoral and academic facilities at The King's School.**

## **THE REASONS**

The imperatives for the changes to the current House system are:

- A need to upgrade both the day and boarding facilities.
- A need for a boarding system that allows an appropriate number of boarders of a similar age to be in the same house.
- A need for larger day houses to accommodate the growing number of day students in the School.
- A need to provide more equal size between day houses and boarding houses.

## **THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Before deciding on the new House structure for The King's School, the Council of The King's School undertook an extensive survey of boarding parents in 2009 and considered the feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of the current boarding arrangement at King's. Council also looked at many options in relation to House restructuring and came to the following conclusions:

- Boarding must remain a central feature of the character and purpose of King's. Already, a significant investment has been made by Council to attract boarders to King's through the issuing of extra boarding bursaries to appropriate families. Continued support will be given to ensure boarding remains a key feature of The King's School.

- A House structure needs to be put in place that 'future proofs' the School and enables it to meet anticipated changes to enrolment patterns.
- The current model of having Year 7 boarders in Gowan Brae works well and should be maintained.
- The vertical distribution of students in Years 8-12 will remain because it promotes leadership, cross-age interaction and a strong sense of belonging.
- Having senior boarding houses of about 90 students is desirable because it ensures a good number of boarders of a similar age in each House.
- It is important to upgrade the presentation of the boarding houses and give them a proper entrance and a sense of arrival. A larger central meeting space

and more single and twin bedrooms are also needed.

- It would be good to provide facilities for boarder parents.
- There are advantages in most boarding tutors being residential.
- The day houses need about three times as much space as they currently enjoy.
- It is important to keep the day houses as close to the academic precinct of the Senior School as possible.

The House restructuring must also be done within a reasonable time-frame and at a cost which will not burden the School with unmanageable debt. This is no small task for Council, but we have arrived at what we believe to be a responsible way forward.



## THE WAY FORWARD

After looking carefully at many options, the following plan has been approved by the Council of The King's School.

- Gowan Brae will continue to operate as a base for Year 7 boarders.
- Forrest, Hake Harris and Macarthur, (the "Right Bank" houses) will be paired with Broughton, Waddy, Baker and Bishop Barker Houses, (the "Left Bank" houses). This will create four boarding communities of about 90 boarders.
  - **Broughton Forrest**
  - **Baker Hake**
  - **Macarthur Waddy**
  - **Bishop Barker Harris**
- Significant new extensions will be built on the four "Left Bank" boarding houses (the Forrest Wing, the Hake Wing, the Macarthur Wing and the Harris Wing) which will provide a new front to the existing Houses, a new entrance and extra single and twin-bed rooms.
- The enlarged "Left Bank" boarding houses will retain, celebrate and display the rich history of all eight original boarding houses.
- The four boarding houses will feature an enlarged central meeting area and increased staffing so that the individual pastoral needs of boys continues to be met.
- At least one of the residences for boarding staff will be converted into guest facilities for boarding parents.
- The three empty boarding buildings near the academic precinct will be given a significant makeover and converted into six day houses. Each day house will occupy half of a vacated boarding building.
- The current Britten and Dalmas building will be demolished and the area

landscaped. The Macquarie and Burkitt building will become a home for Year 7 day boys and boarders during the school day. The demountables, currently accommodating Kurrle and Wickham on the Rec Field, will be removed.

- A new Science building will be constructed on the site of the existing Agriculture Building. This will allow the demountable classrooms to be removed from the Rec Field and the area restored for active recreation.
- The old Science facilities will be partly demolished and partly upgraded so that they can provide quality classroom space and a new location for Educational Support Services which are currently housed in the Bursar's building. The Bursar's demountable will be demolished and its occupants relocated to the downstairs area of the Bursar's building.

## TIMELINES

There is a need for some flexibility in the timelines for the restructuring of the House system and for the other capital works. Much will depend upon financial variables. However, the School is in a strong position and enjoys record enrolments at present. This means that two parallel building initiatives will commence in 2011 and continue over the next five years:

1. **The academic building project**, namely the new Science building and the new Visual Arts building.
2. **The building of new boarding facilities.**

Clearly, the projects will have to be timed to ensure that the School can meet the costs, minimise disruption and stay within prudential borrowing limits. The completion

of the projects will take about five years and sees an investment of many millions in the upgrade of both boarding and day facilities.

The renovations and upgrading of the Houses will take place in six stages.

**See over for full renovation timetable.**

## STAGE 1 – TERM 1, 2011

- The seven senior boarding communities will be combined into four:
  - Broughton/Forrest
  - Baker/Hake
  - Macarthur/Waddy
  - Bishop Barker/Harris

These Houses have been paired to ensure a good cross-sectional mix of the School community in each House. The operational combining of Houses will take effect at the start of 2011 through combined House Chapels, House Sport, At Homes, Staffing, Student leadership, Friday lunchtime meetings, etc.

- Incoming Year 8 students in 2011 will be allocated to the “Left Bank” boarding houses (Broughton, Waddy, Baker and Bishop Barker).
- Hake Harris boarders will be divided into two separate Houses. Some choice may be possible so that friendship groups are protected. David Vassallo will be the Housemaster of Harris and Brad Papworth will be the Housemaster of Hake. The two Houses will operate in different wings of their existing building.
- During the renovations, the flat dweller will be temporarily relocated to a vacant flat.

## STAGE 2 - TERM 3, 2011

- A new Forrest wing will be added to Broughton House and Broughton House will be renovated.
- Boarders located in Broughton House will be temporarily dispersed to:
  - Forrest (Year 8 + 5 Year 12s)
  - Macarthur (Year 9 + 5 Year 12s)
  - Hake Harris (Year 10 + 6 Year 11s)
  - Bishop Barker (6 Year 11s + 3 Year 12s)
- The Broughton Housemaster, flat dweller and cottage dweller will do duty in Forrest, Macarthur, Hake Harris and Bishop Barker and assist with supervision.

## FINALLY

This restructuring of The King’s School House system is an exciting initiative which the Council believes will:

- Maintain a strong House system and associated virtues of effective pastoral care, a sense of belonging and of providing a ‘home’ for every student in the School.
- Honour and preserve the history of the School, while at the same time allow for change so needed within the dynamic community in which we live.

- On completion of renovations, Broughton and Forrest boarders will relocate to the new Broughton/Forrest facility under one Housemaster.
- The Forrest building will become known as “Old Forrest” until it is converted into day houses.

## STAGE 3 - TERM 2, 2012

- Baker House will undergo renovation and the new Hake Wing will be added.
- The boarders located in Baker House will be temporarily dispersed to Old Forrest (now empty) with an overflow to Hake Harris and Macarthur. Again, friendship groups will be taken into consideration.
- The Baker Housemaster, flat dweller and cottage dweller will do duty in Forrest, Macarthur and Hake Harris and assist with supervision.
- On completion of renovations, Baker and Hake boarders will relocate to the new Baker/Hake facility under one Housemaster.
- Brad Papworth and David Vassallo will cease to be temporary joint Housemasters, but will continue to reside in their current residences to assist in providing pastoral care to the Harris boys remaining in Old Hake Harris. (By the end of HSC exams in 2012, Old Hake Harris will include only boys from Years 10 and 11)
- At the completion of Stage 3, the conversion of Old Forrest to day houses can commence in Term 4, 2012. When complete, Burkitt and Macquarie will move in.

## STAGE 4 - TERM 2, 2013

- Bishop Barker House will undergo renovation and the new Harris Wing will be added.
- The boarders located in Bishop Barker House will be temporarily dispersed to Hake Harris with an overflow to Macarthur.

- Provide a House structure that is flexible and able to cope with future trends in enrolment.
- Allow a significant upgrade of facilities for boarders and day students.
- Be fiscally responsible because of the judicious re-use of existing buildings as well as the construction of new buildings.

We commend the new House structure to you in the belief that it represents a responsible and creative way forward.

- The Bishop Barker Housemaster and flat dwellers will do duty in Hake Harris and Macarthur, and assist with supervision.
- On completion of renovations, Bishop Barker and Harris boarders will relocate to the new Bishop Barker/Harris facility under one Housemaster.
- Burkitt and Macquarie will be relocated to the renovated day house facilities in Old Forrest House.
- Year 7 will occupy the building vacated by Burkitt and Macquarie Houses.

## STAGE 5 - TERM 2, 2014

- Waddy House will undergo renovation and the new Macarthur Wing will be added.
- The boarders located in Waddy House will be temporarily dispersed to Macarthur, with an overflow to Old Hake Harris.
- The Waddy Housemaster, flat dweller and cottage dweller will do duty in Macarthur and Old Hake Harris and assist with supervision.
- On completion of renovations, Waddy and Macarthur boarders will relocate to the new Macarthur/Waddy facility under one Housemaster.
- The upgrade and consolidation of boarding will now be completed.
- Residential staff living on the “Right Bank” will be attached as cottage dwellers and flat dwellers to the four boarding houses on the “Left Bank”.
- Old Hake Harris and Old Macarthur will be converted into day houses.

## STAGE 6 - 2015

- Day house renovations will be completed including provision of a boarder parent retreat.
- Britten, Dalmas, Wickham and Kurrle will relocate to the new day house facilities in Old Hake Harris and Old Macarthur.
- Old Britten and Old Dalmas will be demolished, and the area landscaped.

**The Rev’d. Martin Robinson**  
Chairman  
The Council of The King’s School

**Dr Timothy Hawkes**  
Headmaster  
The King’s School