

Information for the Preshil Community

Friday, 19 February 2016

Today in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, John McMillan pleaded guilty to charges of offensive behaviour and committing an indecent act against a former Preshil student. He also pleaded guilty to similar charges involving a student from another school at which he had taught.

We understand that McMillan will be sentenced on 22 March and we will let you know the outcome of that hearing.

Preshil apologises humbly and unreservedly to every member of the School community, past and present, who has suffered because of the actions of this man and the dreadful impact his crimes have had on individual lives.

Preshil is shamed by the failure of the school in the past to protect its children. We are deeply sorry for this wrong.

We want publicly to acknowledge the courage and the patience of those who have not allowed this matter to rest and have ensured that allegations have been subjected to a proper legal process and the truth established.

Preshil offers its wholehearted support to victims of these crimes and asks anyone seeking support to contact us directly, or seek help from others to contact us on their behalf. Individuals are also encouraged to contact the Royal Commission, Referral Number R00734, should they wish to do so.

We know that there are members of our community who are disappointed that our communications have not reached all alumni. Please forward this information to other alumni; to everyone you believe should know about this matter and who may not be in contact with the School. This letter will be placed on our website.

The community is entitled to the assurance that every child is safe at Preshil; that children and their parents will be heard, their concerns acted upon and that every one of our staff commit to the highest standards of professional boundaries and behaviour and to a culture of vigilance and intolerance of any breach of those standards. Our policies governing the safeguarding of children are available from the School and Preshil has initiated the process to become an accredited member of the Australian Childhood Foundation's 'Safeguarding Children' program.

We invite any member of the Preshil community to contact either of us to discuss any of these matters.

Yours Sincerely



Marilyn Smith
Principal



Andrew McMeekin
School Council