

Wednesday 24 August 2016

Information for the Preshil Community

In February John McMillan, a man who taught at Preshil prior to 1996, pleaded guilty to offensive behaviour and committing an indecent assault against a former student of Preshil and a student of another school where he taught prior to being employed at Preshil.

As promised in March this year we can finally let the community know that today John McMillan was sentenced to four months imprisonment (18 months with 14 months suspended). The Magistrate indicated that his sentence was reduced to take into account his guilty plea and his failing health. He has been placed on the sex offenders register for life. He was bailed after lodging an appeal against this sentence.

Preshil has apologised publicly for the crimes of this man, recognising that we do not know the full extent of the pain and damage he has caused. The School wishes 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.

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 is in the process of completing our accreditation with 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.



Andrew McMeekin
Chair of School Council



Marilyn Smith
Principal