



CROMWELL COLLEGE

within The University of Queensland

27 July 2020

To the Cromwell College Community

As you are aware, our Principal, Mr Ross Switzer advised the Board of Governors at its 11 March 2020 meeting of his intention to retire on 31 January 2021 after what will be nearly eleven years of dedicated service by both himself and Jenny to the Cromwell College community.

Since then, the Trustees of the Board of Governors alongside Davidson Recruitment, has conducted a thorough recruitment and selection process to find the best person to become the 7th Principal of Cromwell College and lead Cromwell into the future.

Following this process, which attracted quality candidates, the Trustees made a recommendation to the Board of Governors at its 22 July meeting, which was accepted.

I am therefore very pleased to announce that Mr Simon Armstrong has been appointed to and has accepted the role of Principal of Cromwell College from 1 February 2021.

Simon is currently the Principal of The Lakes College, Brisbane. He has led this large P-12 coeducational school since 2012. Simon was Deputy Principal at Townsville Grammar School (2007-2011), a large P-12 regional coeducational day and boarding school. Simon also served at All Saints' Anglican School, Gold Coast (1995-2006) as the Director of Sport and Head of the Health and Physical Education Faculty. Earlier in his career, Simon taught in Derbyshire, UK and in Dysart, Central Queensland.

Simon holds a Master of Education Degree from Griffith University and a Bachelor of Education Degree from Queensland University of Technology. He has completed the highly regarded Principal's Leadership Course at Harvard University.

After leading The Lakes College to its highly successful position today, Simon sees the Headship of a respected University college as a new step in his career. He and the Board of Governors believe that his values, character, strengths and experience closely align with the unique culture that is Cromwell.

Simon has exceptional interpersonal and relational skills which are based upon earning respect. He has a very strong sense of community. Simon believes in empowering students and staff and managing change through building rapport and authentic discussions.

Simon's business acumen is very strong with direct experience managing administration, finance, legislative benchmarks, governance, fundraising, marketing and operations.

Complimenting Simon's many strengths, the Armstrong family is no stranger to University residential colleges or in fact to Cromwell.

Simon's wife, Dr Kylie Armstrong's career spans both health and education sectors including academic settings following the completion of her PhD. She has led state and national policy reform in health service improvement and redesign and is currently leading a team as Executive Manager, Planning and Health Intelligence at Western Queensland Primary Health Network. She has an adjunct appointment as Senior Fellow with the Mater Research Institute, University of Queensland and is Director of Consulting Business Healthy Futures Australia.

Kylie was the founding Director of St Margaret's (tertiary residential) College which rebranded in 2018 to Durack College and is incredibly excited to be joining the Cromwell College community.

Simon and Kylie's eldest son Oliver was a valuable member of the Cromwell College community as a student in 2015 and 2016. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business (UQ) in 2017 and has worked in sales in technology companies in both Melbourne and Brisbane. He is taking a shift in career and commences a Masters of Public Policy this Semester at the Australian National University (ANU), Canberra.

Ben is in his final semester of his Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) at QUT, and Meg is in the second year of her Bachelor of Science (Physiology) at University of Melbourne, and lives on campus at Ormond College.

The Armstrong family is therefore very well versed in the bouquets and brickbats of contemporary tertiary residential college life, and is looking forward very much to being fully involved in the life of the students of Cromwell.

The Cromwell students will no doubt be very pleased to hear that the Armstrong family also has a dog! His name is "Charlie".

I know that you will join with me in warmly welcoming the Armstrong family to the Cromwell College family. There will be opportunities (subject to COVID restrictions in place at the time) for Simon and his family to be introduced to the Cromwell community later this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Ross and his team in these challenging times.

Kind regards



Dr Joe Goodall
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS