



Can you imagine going to school alongside alpacas, goats, guinea pigs and chickens? Or tending a school garden and orchard overflowing with fresh fruit and vegetables? That's exactly what we found at Donvale Christian College. We're especially grateful to two knowledgeable Year 12 students who generously gave up their Saturday on 14 March to show us what it takes to care for the school's animals and orchard.

We marvelled at the variety of chickens and their inquisitive personalities, while the guinea pigs enthralled us with their size and softness. To our surprise, the goats and alpacas seemed just as interested in us – bounding across the field for a closer look. We, in turn, couldn't help but admire their wonderfully quirky, curly hairdos.

Peter Jones, the College's Farm and Sustainability Manager, shared how the farm brings the College's Christian values to life. Through learning about and practising good animal husbandry, students reflect God's care and compassion for creation and grow in their responsibility to steward it well.

Sampling fruit straight from the orchard was a simple but powerful reminder of God's good provision, the wonder of creation and rhythms of life, and the joy of being outdoors, connected to both nature and one another. As we passed by the vibrant flower garden, alive with the hum of insects, we left feeling uplifted and deeply grateful for a morning immersed in God's creation.

Thank you, Donvale Christian College, for your warm welcome and generous hospitality.

