



TERM 1 2021, TOLCARNE NEWSLETTER TOLCARNE TRUMPET

Director of Boarding Report

Recently I listened to the panel at the 125th Anniversary and enjoyed hearing the Old Girls talk about being a boarder and how it helped them learn about life. It reminded me – that while at times being a boarder is tough, you can never lose sight of what skills and attributes are developed, setting students up for their adult life. If you haven't listened to it, you can find the link on the SHCS Facebook page – it was enjoyable panel.

Boarding provides our students with so many learning moments, some are small and some are bigger. These experiences give our young woman the ability to grow their resilience toolkit and bounce back when they hit adversity. Every parent wants their children to be able to do this. When we see our children hurting, we hurt and we have to cognitively stop ourselves from running in and rescuing them. Our job is to empower our children to grow their own self-efficacy capabilities.

Currently we have some of our Year 9s working through homesickness. This is always hard and many are having to dig deep, breathe and put in place strategies that help them move forward and adjust. It is an intrinsic part of boarding and each boarder will experience the feeling of homesickness. Nearly all of our boarders share a bedroom or apartment space with others - this is a platform for teaching compassion, tolerance, patience, empathy and understanding. None of these attributes can be just given to our young people, they have to be experienced so they can grow their people skills and coping strategies.

Managing increased freedom with devices for our older boarders presents challenges and learning moments, particularly in terms of social media. This includes; how to use it, ignore it, control it, managing what we post and thinking about what we make social media mean to us. In Year 10 and 11 Prep this term we shared an article about a local social media bullying incident, where the perpetrator was prosecuted. Our conversations were around how we can better look after each other and for some, they may have had a moment where they stopped and considered what and how they post.

Friendships are another big learning moment for our boarders. They morph and change as we learn from each other, we begin to figure out what friendships align with our values and perhaps which ones don't. Being brave and holding fast to your values is hard work as a teenager, however it is how we decide who we want to be, who we can trust and who we want to be around. From tough times we learn that our actions impact others we care for and that we also have the opportunity to lean in with integrity and own our behaviour.

I have highlighted a few areas where our boarders experience learning, however there are many more everyday small hostel moments that provide rich learning for your daughter throughout her teenage years. The message from the Old Girls panel was that 'Boarding Builds Better People' and everyday your daughter is growing and becoming a better person :)

I am reminded of this quote:

Alfred



Life in Level 2 as a Boarder

Life in Level 2 at the hostel wasn't a huge change for the girls, with most of the usual Tolcarne daily procedures still in place. The main differences were in relation to the kitchen and dining times. Compulsory sanitiser on entry and social distancing while waiting to be served, were our key changes. Once seated at your pre laid out cutlery, you could begin dinner as usual.

All girls needed to have purposeful leave to go out after school, so those many trips to Maori Hill and catching up with the boys had to be delayed for the time being! Apart from this and a few other minor changes, Tolcarne was much the same. With the positive and adaptable staff and boarding students, Level 2 for us all was made a breeze. By Kaylee Bond, Year 12

Senior Dean Message

Another year has begun! The girls arrived, along with the glorious weather and as usual they enjoyed cooling off in the pool after hot days in uniform. The pool has a lovely new deck area, perfect for hanging out under the sunshade - which is particularly handy for those living in the flats!

As the end of term approaches, the work load gains momentum once again. The first round of internals are coming in thick and fast. It is great to see our senior students starting to manage themselves, asking to join tutorials and keeping up with the pace.

Our Tribe dinners are back on Monday nights and we have had a good start to the year with the Mexican fiesta, an Easter bunny surprise and the egg hunt! The Hostel Tribe values cards are beginning to add up, really making an impact to the leader board - Great work!

Have a fantastic break everyone, full of family and laughter - Ziggy

2021 Tribes



Junior Dean Message

We made it through the Term!! Well done everyone and I do mean everyone. It takes a team effort to build a strong year group. Support coming from parents, staff, senior leaders, buddies and commitment from the girls themselves. It's never easy starting as a Year 9, everything is new and a summer spent day dreaming of how fantastic it's going to be as a boarder. As we know the reality is often harder and much work is needed to build strong solid relationships - this takes time and it's not about the quantity it's the quality.

Great weather has meant the juniors have been offered many outdoor activities, such as beach visits, surfing, bush walks and hours spent in our pool. It's great to see and be a part of happy times and memories made.

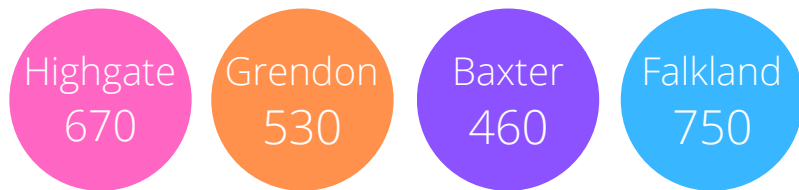
The girls have also been enthusiastic in joining sporting and co-cu activities, with the juniors quick to sign up. We have 3 touch teams for the Year 9 girls alone and a similar number for volleyball. We have a keen group of cricketers, athletes and a crew of dancers. This also means they need to be super organised with their transport. I am pleased when I see the junior's first in line on a Sunday night at 6pm, ready to book the weeks van rides - very organised!

Koru for the juniors has been off to a great start. The Year 10 girls have sessions every second week, where we have been looking at Gratitude, Mindfulness, Courage and Connection. For the Year 9 girls we have started with Gratitude, looking at Personal Values and creating Life Maps. The girls did an amazing job, standing in front of the group and presenting their work. I have popped these away, looking forward to bringing them out in Year 13.

Lastly a big thank you from me to the Junior girls, for the continuing effort that they put into their Tribes. They always dress up and show huge enthusiasm for events that we put on, striving for Tribe Points... FANTASTIC !!

I hope everyone has a well earned break, enjoy each others company - Robyn

Tribe Points Update



Head Boarders Chat

Molly Loe & Latasha Hastie

Hey everyone, we are the 2021 Head Boarders and we are so excited to have this role! The term has flown past, with so many amazing and special events that have happened over the last 11 weeks - definitely making it fun-filled and exciting for the rest of the year ahead. On the 4th of February, Tolcarne hosted the Year 13 Leader's dinner. This was a good opportunity for the boarding families to come together and celebrate the girls final year. At the start of the evening families were able to get a photo together and as an entire year group (including the guest speaker, Megan Crawford, GM of Dunedin Airport). During the event, Megan presented a speech, highlighting her amazing career and inspiring the girls to take every opportunity they are given. The kitchen staff put on a great dinner (as usual!), decorating the dining room to add a special touch for the night. The evening finished with the girls being gifted their Year 13 Tolcarne badge, which was really appreciated.

The Waitangi Day Games were held over Waitangi weekend, with the juniors heading to John McGlashan to play games with the other Dunedin boarding schools. The Year 12 Boarding Leaders were in charge of the St Hilda's games, deciding to carry on the tradition of the 'dizzy water' game, which always seems to attract a lot of participation! We also had our cornhole game going and the Year 12's added in a three-legged race. We spent the afternoon floating around each station, making sure that everyone was enjoying the activities. This also gave us a chance to connect with the other Head Boarders from across Dunedin. After the second session it was time for a food break. The kitchen staff at Tolcarne put a lot of effort into making sandwiches, as did the other schools with various snacks. The girls were buzzing after the day, all having had a lot of fun.

For Valentine's Day we decided to decorate the hostel on Friday (as the actual day was during the weekend). With the help of the Year 12 Boarding Leaders, we were able to stick notes of love and appreciation on every single girl's door, also hanging streamers and balloons for a positive end to the week! - Tash and Molly xx



MEXICAN FIESTA!

By Xanthe Payne, Rosa Smith, Honor Garden & Paxton Francis

The Mexican Fiesta night was definitely fun for the new year's nines, as this was our second Tribe event. All the girls were encouraged to dress up in Mexican costumes. We had very different dress-ups, from mustaches and sombreros to lovely Mexican dresses! As always, every dress-up has to have some winners! So the girls who wanted to, participated in a catwalk - judged by Ross. He had the difficult task of judging 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. 1st place went to Hayley King (Year 13), 2nd place Sophie Sheppard (Year 9) and 3rd place was awarded to Paxton Francis (Year 9).

After we finished our dinner it was time for some Tribe games. There were volunteers offering to have their faces painted and others who did the painting! While this was underway, the remainder of the Tribes had a balloon race. They had to pass this down and back up the table twice, without dropping it. To top it off, you weren't even allowed to use your arms or hands! If your Tribe dropped their balloon, you had to start again. After a while of figuring out the best technique, each Tribe worked out that they could put the balloon between two sombreros and pass it down, just like that!

The kitchen team made enchiladas for dinner - perfectly fitting our Mexican theme! We were also lucky enough to also have the Churros Olé Van come up for a visit. We each had churros for dessert, with chocolate or caramel sauce. Mmm thanks Ross, Jodie and the rest of the kitchen staff for a delicious meal!



'Addressed To Greta' - Book Review

At the Year 13 boarder's dinner in February, Megan Crawford (guest speaker), gifted the girls Fiona Sussman's latest novel. 'Addressed to Greta', tells the story of "thirty-something year old" Greta Jellings. She is frequently held back from opportunities in life by her severe anxiety caused by childhood trauma. Greta is torn when presented with a mysterious around-the-world adventure, gifted to her by her late best friend. Does she leave her perfect life with perfect routine? Or does she throw away the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because of the insecurities she faces? And what about her pet chicken, Marilyn Monroe?

At the start of the book, reading Greta's chaotic anxieties is rather stressful, and I found it quite hard to stay engaged. Her thought processes and the actions she took were quite predictable, as she was scared to leave her routine. She lived under her mother's mantra "no expectation, no disappointment." As the story progressed, I found it heartwarming to watch Greta's personality flourish and embrace her true self, not living under the shadow of her late mother.

I feel that many teenagers in our society could relate to this book. From the anxieties we have every day, and the second-guessing on every decision we make, it's exhausting. Watching Greta overcome these fears has shown me that it will never be too late to step out of my comfort zone and go on an adventure. Not just discovering the world, but also discovering who you are as a person.

I loved reading this book as I was able to travel the world with Greta as she overcame her limiting beliefs. By Imogen Keeling, Year 13

Weekend Activities Recap

Term 1 is often quite full on, with lots happening in the weekends. The juniors had their orientation weekend at the start, before the Wanaka Show, Otago Anniversary weekend and Easter! It means there have only been around 4 weekends this term where I have been able to take the girls out for a fun adventure.

When we have headed out, the girls have made the most of it! We went on a trip to the Moeraki Boulders, enjoying the beach and a picnic lunch. The surfing lessons proved so popular that we went twice - making the most of the sunny weather! Swimming and games at Brighton Beach was a hit, along with the boat cruise through the harbour.

Looking ahead to Term 2 we have plenty of fun activities for the girls to try. Some of these include, Boxing, a Silk class, train trip, the Escape Room, games night with John McGlashan, Ice skating and Lazer tag! - Bex



Kitchen Talk

Wow, what an amazing first term we have had! It started with our Year 13 Dinner, being introduced to Molly and Latasha as the 2021 Head Boarders - a lovely affair. We then had the Mexican night, with Churros Olé onsite for dessert.

I have enjoyed talking to the Year 9 and 10s about smoothies, hot lunches and the cleaning of their lunch boxes. Barb loved being able to be part of the 125th Anniversary celebrations with the Luncheon at Tolcarne. Ross joined in for Friendship Day by wearing his yellow jacket and his green option for St Patrick's Day. Lots has been happening and keeping us busy!

The team has had a fab time this term and we looking forward to Term 2.

Many Thanks, The Kitchen Team XXX

Notices

Please Note! Camera's are operating in the A and B corridors and externally around the grounds for the purpose of student safety. The footage may be used as part of our behaviour management processes and it is only viewed by the management staff at the hostel.

- Naming clothes - Please remember to check and clearly name ALL CLOTHES over the holidays! A reminder that Tolcarne now also has name labels to sew on your daughters school sports uniform.

- For students that like to use their own sheets, we advice that you bring 2 sets. Sheets can occasionally take more than 1 day to be washed, especially with the quantity of heavier winter washing in Terms 2 and 3. Please clearly name these on a corner - using a vivid is a good idea! There are always spare sheets at Tolcarne if personal sheets are not returned on the day of washing.

- If you would like to bring soup down to school for lunch, please bring a thermos or a water tight container back for Term 2. Soup is available Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Visitors List System

- 1 - Visitors lists should be a small list of your nearest and dearest - the people you trust explicitly.
 - 2 - These are people that can come and take out your daughter without the hostel having to check with you first.
 - 3 - The person on the visitors list MUST ring and invite your daughter to come out with them and come into the hostel to sign them out.
 - 4 - No one on the visitors list can take your daughter out overnight, unless you give permission for an overnight outing.
- Your daughter can go out with other people during the day who are not on your visitors list - please use HOST leave.

Tolcarne policies and procedures can be accessed by our Tolcarne families via the following link - <http://tiny.cc/info-tolcarne>



Tribe Pinboards!!

Tribe Pinboards - We are having our Tribe competition for the best decorated Pin Boards across all year levels next Term. These will be completed by the second week back. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each year level will be awarded. Think pictures, pompoms, bunting... you name it! Decorations on every wee bit!!

- Open Day Doors Competitions - We will also be holding our annual "Do Up Your Door" night on Wednesday May 19th, in preparation for our Open Day on Thursday May 20th. Please get organised over the holidays, take photos, get bits and bobs, think of a theme and be prepared to make your door and room look STUNNING!! Then you will be in with a chance to WIN!!

A Message from Dr Townsley

One of the things we did for the 125 th Service at the School Chapel was light some candles in commemoration of the work started by the Sisters all those years ago. The light of the candles celebrated their passion and vision for this task, our commitment to its continuation for the young women of the future, and the abiding presence of God with the Sisters, with us, and with future generations. Eight "old girls" each lit a candle and we thanked God for things such as the way God has stirred our hearts and minds, showing us grace, placed us in loving fellowship with one another and taken us on a venture of faith which will ever go on.

Lighting candles is a powerful thing to do. After Easter, many Anglican churches light the "Paschal Candle" to remind us of the presence of the Risen Christ (we do this in our Term Two chapels as we head into the darker winter days). During Lockdown last year we were encouraged to place a candle in our windows as a sign of hope and life.

You might like to light a candle yourself and allow its quiet, peaceful light remind you of things we can celebrate - from the past, the gifts we have in the present for which we can be thankful and the hope for the future that God can bring into our lives.

'A Trip Down Memory Lane'

Sunday the 21st of March was a trip down memory lane for a large group of "Old Girls". They arrived at Tolcarne for a hostel tour and luncheon, after attending the church service commemorating the 125th Anniversary of St Hilda's. For some it was the first time they had returned to Tolcarne since leaving school. A good number of former students turned up for the midday event and the whole place was a buzz of excited chatter! Although hostel tours had been organised, most were content to wander freely around, comparing the present day facilities with their memories of Tolcarne, some dating back to the early 1960's.

Inevitably stories were swapped about escapades in the hostel, staff and their quirks, as well as Tolcarne myths ie; the Red Lady, the disappearing rabbit and the Basement Seances! As the rule states: What happens at Tolcarne, stays at Tolcarne! Having begun working at Tolcarne in 1993, it was a fantastic opportunity for me to catch up with the lives and memories of a number of our former girls. It was pleasing to hear their positive comments about the food, staff and life in general at Tolcarne when they were here. - Reany Rust



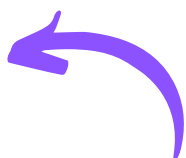
A couple of old girls sneaked a peek under the beds to see if their little messages were still on the drawers. They had no luck as the old beds have all been replaced over the years, but a couple of drawers were saved for old times sake!



/St Hilda's
Tolcarne
Boarding
Residence



tolcarne_sthildas



Check out what is happening weekly on our Facebook and Instagram pages!