



TERM 2, TOLCARNE NEWSLETTER

# TOLCARNE TRUMPET

## Director of Boarding Report

The ERO report for 2020 in regards to our provision for students in the school hostel was a wonderful and heartwarming read. It was awesome to have such a positive outcome in what has been an unsettled term for the staff and students. It made us all feel very proud of Tolcarne, the changes we have made and what we have achieved together over the last 3 years.

Personally, I am very proud of the staff and their professionalism and commitment to the students and families of Tolcarne and their openness to change and development. I am also very proud of the students and what they have contributed towards growing our inclusive and brave culture at Tolcarne. Each girl is on her own journey navigating their teenage experiences, and being part of a hostel provides different opportunities, with some more challenging than others. The challenging experiences require the girls to be brave, lean in and at times feel uncomfortable. Much of what we do at the hostel is to help our students grow and develop their resilience skills so they can step into adulthood with self worth and confidence.

Here is what the ERO report said about Tolcarne and our hostel:

The school hostel, Tolcarne, accommodates up to 162 students. At the time of this review 158 students were living in the hostel. Tolcarne is owned by the St Hilda's Collegiate School Board of Proprietors. The hostel owner has attested that all the requirements of the Hostel Regulations are met.

The Director of Boarding is new since the last review. She is working collaboratively with the board, staff, parents and students to sustain and build on the many effective systems and practices supporting positive experiences and outcomes for students. There are sound systems to manage and provide a safe physical environment for students. Students' wellbeing and social and emotional resilience are actively supported through a wide range of staff and student-led initiatives and programmes, and from access to well-qualified pastoral staff. Junior students' transitions into the hostel are carefully planned for, and positive relationships with their peers and senior students intentionally fostered. Senior students have many opportunities to show and develop leadership skills. They are appropriately encouraged to take increasing responsibility for themselves.

There is effective communication and coordination between the hostel and school to ensure continuity of care for students' wellbeing and learning. Students' learning is prioritised and supported in the hostel context. Parents are very well informed about their daughters' wellbeing and participation in the life of the hostel. They have regular opportunities to be involved in hostel events, give feedback on aspects of hostel operations and discuss their daughters' wellbeing and personal growth. The Director of Boarding and hostel staff prioritise continuous improvement and professional learning to enable them to provide effective pastoral care for all students.

Wishing every whānau a wonderful July holiday.  
Atawhai ki tetahi ki tetahi (Care for each other)

Kind regards,  
Ange Rathbone



Wow wee Term 2 at Tolcarne may have been a short one but it packed a punch! The junior girls did very well returning and seamlessly slipping into a new Tolcarne with social distancing, contact tracing and never ending hand sanitiser! The girls have done amazingly well as this has not been an easy time for anyone. Winter sports started which was great to get everyone out and involved in some exercise and team building. Bex has had a busy job keeping the girls active in the weekends with Boxing, Silks, the Escape Room and Ice Skating. These have been fantastic opportunities for the girls to discover new interests and challenges. The junior girls also enjoyed flexi prep this term, turning their hand at bracelets, sewing, hat making and drawing. An additional activity this term has been "Bedtime Stories with Rosie Dykes". The juniors have enjoyed this time sitting together in the corridor, listening to old time fairytale favourites.

Enjoy the Holidays,  
Robyn

## Tribe Update

This term our Tribe dinners were a little late in starting, but we still managed to have one night of Tribe Games! The dining room windows were decorated with bright chalks, celebrating their animal mascot and some of our Tolcarne values. We have really enjoyed looking at them. The girls have been busily earning Tribe points for demonstrating Empathy, Belonging, Respect and Integrity. Keep up all the great work! For next term we will be moving our Tribe nights to Tuesday, as we have so many girls out playing hockey on Mondays.

Highgate 410	Grendon 405	Baxter 435	Falkland 300
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Although we had a delayed start, the term seemed to be fast and intense for the seniors. Lots of internals and the feeling of needing to catch up was strong. We finally managed to have a 'My Flat Rules' cooking competition between the flats, and as usual their efforts did not disappoint! Tolcarne has enjoyed its spectacular vantage point looking out over the city with the beautiful sunshine we have had, the glittering frosty mornings and the foggy evenings. The whole term has been full throttle and I am sure everyone is ready for their well earned break. Enjoy your recharge - see you next term!

Ziggy

### My Flat Rules



Tribe window design competition



Check out what is happening weekly on our Facebook page!



## Notices

- *Tribe Pinboards* - Girls we are having a new Tribe competition for the best decorated Pin Boards across all year levels. These must be completed by the first Tuesday back. 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each year level, with pictures, pompoms, awards... 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 the first Wednesday back in preparation for our Open Day on Thursday the 23rd of July. 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!!
- *Naming clothes* - Please remember to clearly name all clothes over the holidays!
- If you would like to bring soup down to school for lunch, please bring a thermos or a water tight container back.



## A message from Dr Townsley



What a strange year 2020 has been so far. The last time the Easter Eucharist was cancelled at St Hilda's was in 1948 because of the Polio epidemic! And I am sure that you have all had various plans, events, and trips cancelled as well. At least some things weren't cancelled, or postponed even if the Olympics were (the last time that happened was during WWII!), and by that I mean things such as kindness, thoughtfulness, and compassion.

While it amazes me that some people in our world chose to do things like spit at nurses or supermarket workers, most people chose to do nice things for each other, including putting teddy bears in windows for little children to spot, or helping their elderly neighbour get the supplies they needed. But mostly, we pulled together as a nation, putting our own personal freedoms on hold in order to protect our most vulnerable.

Jesus said to love your neighbour as yourself, and we have shown the world exactly how to do this! Jesus also said to love your enemies, which is far more difficult; when we look at what is going on around our world at the moment, this may be the main challenge we face, more so than how to get those refunds from Air New Zealand, or wondering when the Formal will happen. Covid 19 has created a very strange 2020, but how we respond to it (and other crises we face), reveals the kind of people we truly are, and gives us the opportunity to show that to the world.



## Head Boarders Message



Hi everyone, how good is it to be back at Tolcarne after a long 8 weeks stuck at home!? This term has been a term like no other. It has seen the Tolcarne girls face many new challenges in regards to the covid procedures. Separate dinners with social distancing, Year 13s having to hand in their keys, and lots of hand sanitising. The girls did an amazing job at adapting to these changes.

Around the corner came Level 1, which we were both excited about as Tribe Dinners were back up and running. This meant that the hostel could all be together again and we could finally start to see things go back to normal. The first Tribe Dinner was led by the Tribe Captains where we did Sing Star....who doesn't love a bit of Abba? And decorating the windows with window art in the dining room to add a bit more colour and happiness to get us through the last few weeks of the term. We also were able to organise a dinner swap with John McGlashan. Years 9-10 headed to JMC and the seniors stayed at Tolcarne.

It has been great to see everyone get back into their winter sports. It has brought more of a hostel 'buzz and excitement' to the girls. We look forward to Term 3 with exciting events approaching such as formal, socials and more sports starting up.

Enjoy your holidays and stay safe,  
Beth and Dotti

## Kitchen Chat

How lovely it is to be back at the hostel with all the girls. The kitchen team have been frantically putting everything back into some sort of normal order. We hope that you all are settling back into your new normal too.

Next term brings Hot Soup to the breakfast menu so don't forget your flasks. Also we will be trying out a make-your-own Rice ball or Sushi wrap for lunch options. We will be offering sushi rice and Nori at the lunch station. Also I would like to make mention to the Year 13 Food Technology group who have been working very hard on some culinary delights for our school canteen, which are nutritious and also cover some of our dietaries. These included; Vegan, Dairy Free & Gluten Free. Ross and I attended the trialing of the girls products and were blown away by the very high standard of their products. The time and effort showed. They looked and tasted wonderful, and Isobel and I can't wait to put some of these delights into the canteen. Thanks for all your hard work.

The Kitchen Team



## Interviews

Emma Liu - Interviewed by Cassidy Stevenson, Year 11

*Q: Where are you from?* A: China, Guangzhou (South of China).

*Q: Why did you choose to come to Dunedin?* A: So I can improve my English.

*Q: What is the biggest difference here compared to home?*

A: The food and culture.

*Q: What is your favourite thing about Tolcarne?* A: I can meet many girls in my age group and it's easier to make friends.

*Q: What has been your highlight so far since being here?*

A: Going to the beach with my friends.

*Q: What is your favourite thing about studying abroad?*

A: There is more freedom, I can make more decisions on my own.

*Q: What are you most looking forward to doing before you leave?* A: Formal.



Cecilia Zhang - Interviewed by Connie Bennington & Lucy Anderson, Year 11

*Q: Where is home for you?* A: North East China, Jilin Changchun.

*Q: Why did you choose to come to Dunedin?*

A: I can work on speaking better English.

*Q: What is the biggest difference here compared to home?*

A: School is more difficult and challenging here.

*Q: What is your favourite thing about Tolcarne?*

A: All the girls are the same age as me and it's heaps of fun.  
*Q: What has been your highlight so far?* A: Kayaking at Year 10 Camp.

*Q: What is your favourite thing about studying abroad?*

A: I can try new things, new opportunities.

*Q: What are you most looking forward to doing before you leave?* A: Formal and Bungy Jumping.

Chelsea Kan - Interviewed by Libby Drummond and Alice Howard, Year 12

*Q: Where are you from?* A: China, Beijing.

*Q: Why did you choose to come to Dunedin?* A: It is a very quiet and small place.

*Q: What is the biggest difference here compared to home?*

A: Speaking different languages. Different culture (e.g. different ways of thinking and questions).

*Q: What is your favourite thing about Tolcarne?* A: We have our own space (physically and mentally) and no one will force you to do anything you don't like.

*Q: What has been your highlight so far since being here?*

A: All the time is good, so I don't have any significant highlight. Maybe having Tribe dinner and those games, they are new to me.

*Q: What is your favourite thing about studying abroad?*

A: Having some spare time to do something that I want or something I want to learn. And I can make my choices for the future more open (jobs, place to live etc).

*Q: What are you most looking forward to doing before you leave?* A: Maybe going to another city with my friends for the holiday.

### See you all in...

