

TOLCARNE TRUMPET

Tolcarne Boarding Residence Newsletter



Director of Boarding Message

By Ange Rathbone

Feedback is a very important tool for Tolcarne because it allows us to listen effectively, motivates us to change systems to enhance our performance and delivery and feedback is a tool for our continued learning. At Tolcarne we have feedback loops for staff, students and parents. Giving feedback and receiving feedback are both important skills that develop with practice, we encourage our students and staff to own their thoughtful feedback that they give and receive.

Staff Feedback Opportunities

Our courage culture amongst the staff has meant that feedback is embedded in our practice. We are now more comfortable with feedback because it is delivered with trust, respect and we feel cared for. We have opened our minds to feedback and embrace the opportunity to learn and improve what we do and it is always encouraging to hear about what we are doing well. Our staff receive feedback from the students on the following: how the staff member connects with the student (their approachability, support and feeling cared for), consistent behaviour management and adherence to hostel routines, the organisation and safety of the hostel and the communication of the staff member (meetings, workshops, wellbeing programme and day-to-day conversations). Our staff carry out their own self reviews, looking at key tasks and how they are performed and we provide an opportunity for staff to peer review the leadership of our management staff.

Student Feedback Opportunities

Our students provide feedback each year through the Tolcarne council on different matters that arise and also at their year level meetings with their Dean (x2 or 3 a term). Often students have ideas about new meal options and Ross enjoys having these conversations with them, he is always looking for ways to improve the catering. Every second year we do a full catering survey with the students - where we take a close look at every meal and snack that is provided at Tolcarne. The student feedback on the matrons helps our staff understand their strengths and their 'work-ons' in their role. Asking students for feedback on what we do well and what we could improve on is part of our "Courage Culture". It helps us as staff to set goals and work towards what we can improve on and most importantly allows us to be proud of what we do well.

Family Feedback Opportunities

There are several feedback channels for our whanau boarding community and I'd like to take this opportunity to share them with you.

1) Tolcarne Committee: This is a group of parents who represent you on the Board of Proprietors. This group meets four times a year prior to the Board of Proprietors meeting. If you have any ideas or queries, this committee is here for you. It is led by Kate Anderson and the following parents are on this committee: Pete Sinclair (deputy chair), Richard Hutchens (Chair of the BoP Finance Committee), Jocelyn Kinney (Chair of the Board of Proprietors), Anna Perkins, Robyn Pannett and Craig Erasmus. If you want to contact any of these parents you will find there details on our Tolcarne Parents In-House web page, under operations.

2) The Tolcarne Parent Food Focus Group: This group of parents are a representation across the year levels. The committee is led by Anna Perkins and they aim to meet regularly once a term with Ross Leishman, our Food Service Manager to provide feedback and ideas. The members also eat at the hostel at least twice a term – so they get to experience the catering options available at the hostel. Our current members are: Jo Murray (yr 13 daughter), Anna Hamilton (year 13, 11 and 9 daughters), Tracey Miller (yr 10 daughter), Annabel Crawford (yr 12 daughter), Lynley Daley (yr 12 and 10 daughters) and Amy McDonnell (yr 9 daughter). Please feel free to contact them at any time to discuss catering related matters. . If you want to contact any of these parents you will find there details on our Tolcarne Parents In-House web page, under operations.

3) The Bi-Annual Whanau Survey: This will again be sent to you this year during Term 3. We bravely ask for feedback on all aspects of our operations: governance and property, wellbeing and pastoral care, staff, communications and catering at Tolcarne.

4) We encourage our parents to look at our Tolcarne policies and procedures and provide us with feedback for improvement. Our Policies are reviewed every 3 years by the Board of Proprietors. Our policies and procedures can be found on our Tolcarne Parents In-House web page. Link to our Tolcarne Parents In-House web page - <https://sites.google.com/shcs.school.nz/tolcarne-docs/home>

5) At the end of each term we invite and encourage parents to attend our Junior and Senior workshops. These are led by Robyn and Ziggy and are an opportunity for parents to discuss operational procedures and systems across the board, whether it is to better understand what we do or to provide different solutions that might work better for the students and staff.

IN THIS ISSUE...

SPORT FOCUS - HOCKEY

PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST

SENIOR FORMAL

Junior Dean Report

By Robyn McGarry

Well the frosts have arrived and winter sports are well under way. The Juniors have spent a few prep times making woollen hats and wheat bags hoping to help keep the chills away.

Term 2 has been another busy term with lots of girls taking part in many winter codes, many playing 2 and some 3 different sports. This in turn means a lot of gear to organise, sports uniforms to clean, injuries to mend, transport to book, the list goes on.

In Year 9 Koru we have been looking at "Emotions".... What they look like, feel like and sound like. I am also very proud of Cassidy Stevenson who came to me wanting to help deliver 2 sessions on "Bullying". It is so cool to see Seniors giving back. In Year 10 Koru we have been talking about what we do to protect our thoughts and feelings, what "Armour" we use. We also unpacked some ideas on "Trust". We had a great session where the girls played the game Roadblock, which is designed to try and emulate the feeling of "failure." It didn't quite go to plan as a couple of the teams cleverly worked out the key to it. The discussion that followed was great and girls got to unpack what "failure" looks like to them.

Lastly, good luck to all that are involved in tournaments and competitions over the holidays. Please make sure you factor in some rest too. Stay warm, Robyn



Senior Dean Report

By Ziggy Hill

It was so lovely to see our Year 12 and 13s getting ready for their senior formal. The nail bar night remains one of my most favorite evenings with nibbles and great company. The tans were mostly done off site this year, so our tropical paradise was not quite so aromatic! Some fabulous outfits were worn and more memories made with friends

Our flats continue to be challenged in their culinary ability and creativity with 'My Flat Rules'. This was the second round of the year and marked the end of this competition. The standard of the food produced was impressive and gave Ange, Robyn and I some ideas to explore ourselves. So thank you, great job!

Tribe dinners have been consistently attended and the competition was boosted by some very energetic dance moves! Now we are looking forward to next term's Tribe challenges....

We have passed the shortest day and this was marked by a long weekend and a new Dunedin Matariki display. Coming from the UK I really notice the speed at which the darkness falls so far South- it never ceases to impress me!

Have a wonderful break and recharge those family batteries. See you all in Term 3 - Ziggy



Head Boarders Chat

By Georgie Lawson and Kaylee Bond



Another 10 weeks have gone by and we have made it halfway through the school year! Term 2 is always filled with opportunities to make memories, and we are so lucky to be able to try out new things and expand our experiences every day here at Tolcarne. We love seeing everyone getting involved and making the most of what they have been provided with!

Our weekly tribe dinners sometimes get a bit skewed with some hockey games on the same night, but for the people who have been there, it has been worthwhile. This term there have been 2

competitions which have allowed for rivalry between the tribes, which is always good! Window graffiti was held in week 2 and left colourful and personalised art around the dining room which everyone loves. Line-dancing in week 8 was an opportunity for everyone to be brave and show off their moves to the rest of the hostel. A challenge is something to embrace and Highgate definitely showed what that looks like. The Tribe points are soaring, and with everyone always having Tribe cards in the jar, it means it might be possible to catch up with Highgate who are still in the lead!

In week 7 we hopefully started a new tradition at the hostel, and that was our 2nd Hand Clothing Sale. With the help of our Tolcarne Council, we organised the event so that the senior girls had the opportunity to sell some of their preloved clothes to the rest of the hostel girls. Everyone, especially the juniors, were very excited to see all of the options laid out neatly on the dining room tables. The night ran very smoothly and was successful for most people, so we really hope that it continues next year!

We are super excited about getting our 2022 Tolcarne merch underway. This year we are doing satin blue Tolcarne pj sets. We decided to help support an Australian small business instead of buying them from a bulk style supplier and we are then getting them embroidered here in Dunedin. It's been a super cool experience to be able to go back in forth with the embroidery company with designs and ideas. However, we have found that organising a thing such as this is a lot harder than it looks. That being said it is going to be super rewarding seeing all our Tolcarne family all snugly in their matching pjs.

Exciting things are in the works for term 3 and it will most likely be our busiest term yet. Many events are on the calendar or in the plans, including dinner swaps, inter- hostel sports games and our world famous 'TOLCARE JUNOIR SOCIAL'. So get excited it's going to be a goodie.

Have a safe and refreshing holidays and we can't wait to see your faces back at the beginning of Term 3. As always lots of love, Kaylee & Georgie x

Sports Focus - Hockey

By Honor Garden, Charlotte Roy and Lucy Falconer

The start of Term 2 signals the beginning of the hockey season. This year we have 8 hockey teams playing across 3 divisions, from Year 9 to 13. Our teams have been practicing hard and playing some tough games even on these chilly nights! So far each team has been thriving in their divisions with the standings so far being as follows...

- St Hilda's 1st II = 1st in Division 1
- St Hilda's 2nd II = 5th in Division 1
- St Hilda's Junior A = 1st in Division 2
- St Hilda's Colts = 2nd in Division 2
- St Hilda's Year 13s = 1st in Division 3
- St Hilda's Junior B = 2nd in Division 3
- St Hilda's 3rd II = 7th in Division 3

Hockey is definitely a fun sport and we would recommend having a go, socially or competitively. There are lots of teams with different skill levels. For any questions about hockey or signing up, feel free to get in touch with us!



From Geoff Soper Photography



Pink Ribbon Breakfast

By Madeleine Drummond and Meg Miller

This term we had a Pink Ribbon Breakfast. It was a great chance to have the whole hostel together after not being able to be at breakfast with seniors for a long time. We all dressed up in all our pink clothes and headed down to the dining room which was decorated pink all around with balloons, streamers and more. We all brought along a donation which was donated towards the Breast Cancer Foundation. We raised a total amount of \$822.70.

Lots of the juniors contributed by making biscuits and cupcakes which were then sold at school by the seniors for a gold coin donation. We had lots of spot prizes such as, mystery box, badges, nail file, pens and more. There was also a jar of jelly beans and as you came in you could guess the amount of jelly beans in the jar. The winner was Meg Miller with the guess of 937 which was within 5. The kitchen staff put on a delicious breakfast, waffles and berries that everyone enjoyed. We also had strawberry milk to go along with the 'pink' theme. Tolcarne would also like to thank all of the wider community who donated to our fundraising!



Tasty Tidbits from the Tolcarne Kitchen

By Ross Leishman, Food Service Manager

Wow, where did this term go.... Term 2 started off really well, the country was now in orange level so for the first real time this year I could see the Year 9s unmasked and they could see myself and the rest of the kitchen team in all our unmasked glory!! However, with the approaching winter months we started to get a mix of covid and winter flu illnesses, and at one point we had key staff off with flu, covid and injury, a perfect storm!! However we managed to steer the good ship kitchen through those rough waters and got back to enjoying some great events.

The Tolcarne open day was awesome, it was great to see all our potential new students, their parents and have everyone talking, eating and enjoying the experience with no social distancing. We also had the Breast Cancer Pink Breakfast organised by our amazing Isla Huffadine, so much hard work by Isla, Julie Walsh, and some awesome fundraising by the Tolcarne students, Bravo!!

Over the weekends we started sending out individual sustenance packs; fruit, juice pouches, and a sweet and savory snack with our students who were away for most of the day for sport - traveling and playing. It seems to be a hit with the students. We also had our first Tolcarne Food Committee zoom meeting, great to touch base with some lovely parents and pick their brains for some possible ideas, and to let them know what we have been up to.

So the holidays are almost here and so is the next hostel rental, an Otago University science group who help high school students from around our great country. Happy Holidays, until next time.

P.S An open invitation to any parents picking up kids, especially on a Friday afternoon, you are welcome to pop down for a cup of tea/coffee, afternoon tea and a chat - e noho rā.



New Dining Room Decor - 'Aroha Light'

Tolcarne Food Committee Profile

By Amy McDonnell

Hi, My name is Amy McDonnell. I live in Alexandra with my husband Greg, we have 3 children, our eldest is in Year 9 at Tolcarne.

I have always had a passion for cooking and baking, and had the freedom to explore this from a very young age. I have 25+ years experience working in cafes, in both Australia and New Zealand. I set up my own cafe in a small mining town in Australia and also offered catering for large groups.

I am now part owner in a busy cafe called 'The Tin Goose' in Alexandra. We mostly do cabinet food with a menu to cater for all food requirements, also offering catering for businesses and schools around the community.

I look forward to working with the Food Committee, along with bringing ideas and suggestions forward from the Year 9 students and families.



Chaplains Chat

By Dr Townsley

I hope you were able to enjoy the new Matariki holiday this year! The stars of Matariki have been part of folk-lore in cultures all over the world, from the Greeks (where they are known as the Pleiades), to the Aztecs, the Celts, and the Japanese (where they are known as the Subaru – hence the six-star cluster of the car brand!). They are also mentioned in the Bible a few times; for example, the prophet Amos says, “The One who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn ... the Lord is his name” (Amos 5.8). For Māori, Matariki marks the new year, and is considered to be a time of remembrance for the past (especially for loved ones who have passed away over the last year), of thanksgiving for the present (and the whanau and friends we have around us), and of planning for the future. I hope that it was a special time for you and your whanau. Here is a Matariki blessing for you:

As we pass the shortest day of the year, we teeter on the brink of a promise of hope and light. The cold winds of winter whisper of spring. May the beauty of the earth fill us with wonder. May the love of our ancestors wrap around us like a cloak. May this new year be bursting with possibilities, unfurling like fern fronds. May our lives be filled with blessings as numerous as the stars.

Senior Formal

By Josie Wither and Anna Carswell

It is that time of year again where the formal season is in full swing! The St Hilda’s Year 12 and 13 Formal was held at the Otago Museum on the 27th of May, the theme being ‘Enchanted Forest’. The night before, the hostel held the annual ‘nail bar’ where Ziggy, Robyn and Mrs Rathbone spent many dedicated hours painting our nails, whilst we got to sit back and enjoy many yummy treats that Ross and his kitchen team had prepared for us. The smell of freshly baked tan filled the hostel which made the excitement even more real.

It was amazing seeing all the gorgeous dresses from both year groups with the Year 13’s dressed up for their last formal and the Year 12’s enjoying dressing up for their first formal, due to COVID-19 cancelling their formal last year. The color of all the dresses this year was insane and everyone looked stunning with a range of different dress styles and makeup looks. The Formal Committee put together an awesome night with delicious food, great music and lots of dancing, making up a night throughly enjoyed by all. Overall it was an awesome evening that the senior girls were able to enjoy and remember, a highlight of the year for many!



Tribe Recap

By Sophie Restall and Madison Cummings

Tolcarne put together some fun Tribe games and competitions this term. Our first Tribe competition was 'graffiti windows', which was where we had liquid chalk and drew words and drawings which represented our Tribes. The winners of this challenge were Falkland, Highgate came in a close second, Grendon third, and Baxter fourth.

Tolcarne also has Tribe Value Cards. We each get given a Value Card, which is the colour of your Tribe. There are six places for signatures and if you get these signed, you put your named card in a jar in the office. You can get signatures by showing our values - respect, integrity, empathy and belonging. At Tribe dinner, you are in with a chance to win a bar of chocolate if your card gets pulled out - you get Tribe points for it too!

Towards the end of term, we had a 'Group Dancing' competition. Each Tribe learnt a dance and competed for first place. Tolcarne Prep supervisors were the judges and the winners were Highgate, with Baxter placing second, Grendon third and Falkland coming closely behind in fourth. It was a very enjoyable night and we all walked away with a smile on our faces!



There are plenty more Tribe events coming up next term! Remember signatures can be awarded for when students are representing our Tolcarne values and when students volunteer to complete duties during the weekends. Bring on the competition for the rest of the year!



Notices

- Please check all chargers and electrical cords are in a safe, working condition. All electrical appliances owned by the students must be electrical tagged..
- Naming clothes - Please remember to check and clearly name ALL CLOTHES over the holidays! A reminder that Tolcarne has name labels to sew on your daughters school sports uniform.
- Please also remember to leave your hot water bottles at home and instead bring a wheat-bag.

Winter Uniform Requirements

- The following uniform pieces can be worn for extra warmth in the winter months.
- Navy woollen tights (or white socks)
 - A jersey can be worn with the old uniform and a cardigan with the new uniform
 - Cardigans can be worn under the blazer
 - House scarf
 - St Hilda's beanie
 - Thermals need to be white if worn under the school shirt (Please note: The blue school thermal is for sports uniform only)
 - The new winter sports jacket can be worn over the school uniform to get to (and from) school on cold, rainy days

Hostel leave with parents

- When you come to Tolcarne and take your daughter out on leave, please pop into the office to see the House Manager. It is really important you come into the office and have this conversation.
- If you are out with your daughter and want to extend/change this leave please ring the office to confirm these changes. This needs to be arranged between the parent and hostel staff.

SAVE THE DATE: Grandparents. High Tea
The annual Grandparents High Tea will be held in Term 4 on Sunday the 30th of October.

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



tolcarne_sthildas



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