



# Thomas House Newsletter

## Message from the Director of Boarding

Dear Parents, Students and Friends

The boys are looking forward to Christmas and another year is almost over for Thomas House.

It is always a rather sober feeling farewelling our seniors who have been with us for five years. However, it has also been a great privilege to have had the opportunity to contribute in some small manner to their development and education at Timaru Boys' High School.



We are immensely proud of these young men.

For those returning, preparations are already underway for 2019 with a full house of 122. The new building development will be completed and ready for occupation by our Year 12 and 13 students. A huge thank you and congratulations must go to the building committee for the countless hours that they have put into this project.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the new Year 9 boys and their parents to Thomas House in late January.

The senior students set the tone of the house and I would like to thank the Year 13 for their leadership and the positive contributions that they made this year, the prefect team, consisting of **Mac Edwards, Ryan Greenslade, James Watt, Cathal Guiney, Will Pudney** and **Jack Clayton** were outstanding. The Leavers Dinner that these young men organised was very successful and a real credit to them.

I would also like to wish those departing from other year groups all the very best for the future. **Mr Blair Jones** (Housemaster) is also leaving the Hostel after five years to move into his new home. Blair has been a no-nonsense housemaster who set consistent standards for the boys regarding rules and general behaviour in the House; in doing so they have always been fully aware of the expectations. As Director, I have fully appreciated his commitment to his position; he will be missed.

We are also extremely privileged to have three new teachers who have been employed on the school staff, coming on board as Housemasters for 2019. **Mr Oscar Horstmann**, his wife Kristyn and three children Riley, Callum and Rebecca will be joining us from South Africa. Oscar's specialist subjects are Economics, Accounting and Physical Education and he has also had experience in running a Boarding House. Mr **Zack Reimer** and his partner will be arriving from Canada. Zack's specialist subject is Mathematics. Mr **Christopher Packwood**, also joining us is from Auckland and specialises in English.

To the students, parents, staff and board members who have contributed so much to the successful outcomes achieved at Thomas House over 2018, I thank you sincerely for your commitment and loyalty to the Hostel.

I am sure that the boys will make the most of being home for the summer holidays. All the very best for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to the boys returning for the 2019 school year.

**Ross Smith, Director of Boarding**

### Inside this Issue

Director of Boarding	1
Residential Manager	2
Trophy Winners	3
Rector's Message	3
Head Boarder	4
Leavers' Intentions	6
Redevelopment Committee	6
Money Matters	8
Start Dates	9

### Special points of interest

- Wednesday 23 Jan Student Office opens
- Monday 28 Jan School opens
- Tuesday 29 Jan TH Reopens
- Wednesday 30 Jan Yr 9 commence
- Waitangi Day 6 February Hostel remains open
- 9-10 February
- Compulsory "In" Weekend for Years 9 and 13



## Message from the Residential Manager

It has been a privilege to be a part of the Thomas House Team again in my 9<sup>th</sup> year as Residential Manager; I feel very fortunate to be entrusted with the care of such inspiring young men. I am proud of each one, watching with interest as they develop from the beginning to end of each year. Thank you for all your support during the year, it is very much appreciated having such a great group of parents.

A huge thanks to the 2018 Prefect team for their outstanding contribution during the year. **Mac Edwards** as Head Boarder, **Ryan Greenslade** as Deputy Head Boarder, James **Watt** as Sports Captain and the rest of the team – **Jack Clayton**, **Cathal Guiney**, **Will Pudney** and **Shane Fikken**. They have been exceptional leaders and as a staff we have greatly appreciated their organisation and work ethic. Following the naming of the Senior Prefect Team for 2019 at the Xmas Dinner there have been some adjustments. Congratulations to the following boys: **Matt Gualter** (Head Boarder), **Joseph Allen-Perkins** (Deputy Head Boarder), **Matt Kennedy** (Sports Captain), **Hayden Jefferson**, **Tim Sheed** and **Will Urquhart**. We look forward to working closely with these young men next year.

The Junior Prefect Team took on the leadership roles once the seniors commenced exams and they have maintained the smooth running of the house. A big thank you to **Hugh Cameron** (Junior Head Boarder), **Isaac Smyth** (Deputy Junior Head Boarder) and the rest of the team, **Liam Andrews**, **Innes Hanrahan**, **Nathan Harbutt**, **Angus Munro**, **Dan Patterson**, **Jed Syme**, **Jock Urquhart** and **Aidan Watt**.

Once again I would like to thank **Warren Henderson** for the tutoring he has undertaken during the year. He has held after school and evening sessions for a significant number of boys who have appreciated the extra help. Warren has indicated he will be available again next year so if you are interested in having tuition for your son, please contact me and I will arrange it.

The Thomas House Christmas/Leavers' Dinner was held in October before senior exams with **Mac Edwards** and **Jasper Keating** cutting the Xmas cake (pictured right). Thanks to **Justin Holman** (Catering Manager) and his team for the Christmas meal.

The boys' speeches were outstanding and **Ethan Bowmar** played the jovial Santa role with aplomb.

We will farewell our Housemaster, **Blair Jones** who has decided to move on and we thank him for his contributions whilst at Thomas House. He has played a huge part in the smooth running of the house and we will miss him.

As always, it is very sad to say goodbye to the 2018 leavers – we wish you all the best and we will miss you.

Goodbye also to the leavers' parents - it has been lovely getting to know you all and a privilege having your sons in Thomas House.

Have a wonderful Xmas and holidays with your families. I look forward to seeing you all again in late January.

**Paula Cross, Residential Manager**



**2018 Thomas House Junior Prefects**

L to R: Jock Urquhart, Aidan Watt, Jed Syme, Isaac Smyth (Deputy Junior Head Boarder), Hugh Cameron (Junior Head Boarder), Liam Andrews, Angus Munro, Dan Patterson, Innes Hanrahan, Nathan Harbutt



## 2018 Thomas House Trophy Winners

Congratulations to the following  
recipients of the  
2018 Thomas House Cups and Trophies

**Senior Housemasters' Cup:** Mac Edwards  
**Junior Housemasters' Cup:** Nathan Harbutt  
**Arthur Dyer Trophy:** Mathew O'Reilly  
**Senior Tennis Cup:** James Watt  
**Junior Tennis Cup:** Charlie Clemens  
**Winter Games Cup:** Leslie  
**Thomas House Cup:** Leslie



Nathan Harbutt, James Watt, Matthew O'Reilly, Mac Edwards, Charlie Clemens

*"If you want to see the true measure of a man, watch how he treats his inferiors, not his equals".*

**JK Rowling**



### Message from the Rector

As I write this message it's unnervingly quiet over at Thomas House with all the boys home now! The usual energy and vibrancy has subsided. The sound of power tools and trucks is still echoing across the yard as the new build moves towards completion. The work done by the dedicated Thomas House Redevelopment Committee of **Colin and Kate Murdoch, Virginia Callaghan, Hamish Sheed, Susan Coker, Sue McNulty, Peter Stayt and Karla Yeatman** has really come into fruition. Thank you to them all for their support to inform crucial aspects of this project during 2018. We're excited at the prospect of having our young men shifting in during Term 1. It will be exciting for them too. This improvement to the accommodation we offer, and modernisation of our boarding environment, will help us to take our next step forward as we enhance Thomas House for the

future. It is joined by other positive measures taken by hostel staff this year to make Thomas House not only a great place to live, but one in which to learn.

It has been a delight to see the boys develop this year. They came so far. I'm sure you see this as parents over time as they arrive home a little different in some ways on return to you.

Thomas House continues to be a place of opportunity, mateship, support and access to all that TBHS has to offer. I thank you for your ongoing support for it and all that it represents and provides.

Have a fantastic Christmas, New Year and Summer.

**Nick McIvor**  
**Rector**

*Knowledge is Power. Mā te Mātauranga te Mana. Scientia Potestas Est.*



## Valedictory Speech: Mac Edwards, Head Boarder

Good evening boys, staff and our guests Peter Stayt and Mr McIvor. Welcome to our 2018 Christmas dinner and thank you for being here. They say time flies when you're having fun; boy were they right. The speed at which these last five years have passed is unreal, I mean wow, it seems like only yesterday was Tuesday.

Thomas House is a special place. It is a place where lifelong friendships are formed, memories are made, characters are built, and most importantly, lawn mowing skills are honed and perfected through hours of "volunteer" work. How generous the boys of Thomas House are.

Having two older brothers in the hostel I had a fair idea of what to expect. So as suggested, I spent those last moments of Year 8 preparing myself for life in the hostel, perfecting my bed making skills, making turning off the lights a habit, all of the essentials to avoid being gated. Year 9 was good. The transition from a school of 70 to a school of 700 was made an easy process. I met lots of new characters, including the playboy millionaire Matthew Morgan otherwise known as "Fat-Mat". Through his actions he taught us many valuable life lessons, mainly being "what not to do". We all assumed Mr Smith was sad to see him go - who was going to mow the lawns now? I met Caleb Porter, whom we soon discovered was born without a bum. Wills Tait, for some reason whenever he ate, he would find himself in the middle of an earthquake, causing the food on his spoon to shake off before it reached his mouth. There was Benji, also known as "rat-boy" who slept above me, dribbling his spit down onto my pillow, and no - he wasn't asleep! Junior years were awesome; upstairs Fraser was a blast. Whether it be Will Pudney beatboxing us to sleep or moonlight raves with William, I still and always will, miss living with a room full of mates. I do remember however the excitement we experienced, looking forward to one day living in the units. Although we didn't know quite what they looked like inside, it helped that often we were lucky enough to get a peak of their cooking facilities. Each morning Hamish Mackay would send a messenger up to Fraser, selecting a Year 9 to come down and wash their dishes for them.

So the junior years passed and along came NCEA and the challenges that come with it. Academically, a new level of learning was required; fortunately, even if you weren't that bright you could still hit that 80 point mark with those Not Achieved credits, at least that's what Tom thought! There were challenges in presentation where we had to learn how to tie a tie, or get mum to do it and don't untie it for the whole year.

Next was Year 12, when we finally got to live in Manning Wing. We knew from years of lunchtime notices, that this place had the potential to get us into a lot of unwanted trouble. The heat pumps seemed to have a mind of their own, setting themselves to 30 degrees and opening all the windows nearly every day. Lots of things were learned during our time in Manning:

- Ryan discovered that eggs aggravated him
- We found Will fancied extremely long showers
- Ben and Neil almost pursued a career in homemade party supplies, after they figured out a toaster and some bread made a very good DIY smoke machine.

Year 13: what a busy year it's been, in all honesty I don't think I could of handled it without those motivational quotes stuck onto our unit walls. This year has passed much quicker than the rest and much quicker than I would have liked it to. However I couldn't have asked for my final year at Thomas House to go any better.

So here we are at our Christmas Dinner so close to the end of the school year. What a way to really put that icing on the cake. Christmas Dinner is a special occasion, one which I look forward to every year. My first taste of this highly regarded tradition was in Year 9. Here we discovered that potatoes could actually fly. Must've been all that magical Christmas spirit. So of course it was this time last year when I heard for the first time my name being read out as Head Border for 2018. I must say I was nervous. David said to me "it was a challenging role but a rewarding one", and right he was. It has been an absolute privilege to be this year's Head Border and an experience I have certainly enjoyed. From it, I have learned many things and am truly grateful for the opportunity. I hope I have served the role well.



This Hostel is definitely a special one, and thanks need to go to the people who make it this way. Mr Smith: the high quality of boys that live in this place would not be the same if it weren't for your stern fatherly figure. You always put us in line when needed and whether at times we like or dislike this; it is what has helped develop us into the people we are today and I'm sure, people we are proud to be. We know everything you do is simply for the benefit of us, so thank you. Mrs Cross. As repeated every year, you are our second mum and we are all lucky to have you as our Residential Manager. You are a kind hearted, approachable woman and are always helping us out in some shape or form, especially when we forget to sign out. That's right Mr Smith - if it weren't for Mrs Cross, you'd probably have a lot more volunteers.

To the House Masters, Mr Mac, Jones, Ivamy, Archibald, Farmer, Brooking, Gibb and all the other House Masters I've had over my time here. Thank you for taking the time to get to know each and every one of us. Thank you to Justin and your catering team, trying to please around 120 hungry teenage boys three times a day would be a difficult task. However you've done a great job in bringing variety onto our plates. Thank you to the cleaning staff I know we don't make your job easy. Thank you to Cathy who is now happily retired and welcome and thank you to Diane who has recently joined our family. You do a great job and although I don't know you to well I have heard wonderful things. Thank you to our gap students Luke and EJ. Trust me when I say I'm glad it's not me getting those junior boys ready for school every day.

Thank you to my Deputies James and Ryan and the rest of my Prefect team who are always there when I need help. It has been a good year for us and I think we've done a pretty good job, but a special thanks need to go to Mr Gibb. Thank you Mr Gibb for all that you have done for us this year. I can easily say that without you, this year would have been much harder. Next year's Prefects will be lucky to have you by their side. Thank you Jim. You proved to us that duct tape can fix almost anything. We will definitely miss you and your kind nature, and can't wait to come back and see the new hostel wing named, *Jim Wing*. Finally, thank you boys. You are what makes this hostel the awesome place I know it to be. If I were to give you any advice, it would be simple. Leave only when you have to. Thomas House is a great place and only available to you for a short time of your life. So make the most of your time here and make your time last.

Year 9s: Keep enjoying your junior days and make the most of the free time you have. When you put on that blue tie, it's much harder to find. So seize opportunities when they present themselves, spread yourself out. And go easy on those Year 8s next year and especially the new prefects.

Year 10s: Enjoy putting on that white shirt and the roasting that comes with it in the first few days. Don't worry – yes, you might look as goofy as people make you out to be, but you'll grow into it. Enjoy the challenge that is NCEA, you'll be fine.

Year 11s: Next year's a big year for you. Set yourself up. Your efforts in Year 12 will most definitely reciprocate in the years following. Stay on top of your work and you'll be fine.

Year 12s: Enjoy what will be your last year of high school. It will be a busy year but one which you'll enjoy. Congratulations to the new prefects announced tonight and keep working hard.

Finally, to the Year 13's: well unfortunately, it's basically all done. Facing the reality that next year isn't going to be spent with all you fellas is saddening. However I'm sure from time to time we will catch up for the odd beer or in Ryan's case, a Passion Fruit Cruiser. I know that at any time in the future we can laugh for hours on end about our times here at Thomas House. Having that close bond and shared history with such a large group is a rarity. So for that I am grateful.

To the people leaving Thomas House next year. Whether you are continuing study or pursuing a career, I wish you the best of luck.

Now to sum up what every Year 13 is thinking about their time here at Thomas House: I will finish with a famous quote by a well-known former All Black and Rugby commentary expert. *Me Oh My, I have enjoyed that, yes boy (Justin Marshall)*



## 2018 Leavers' Intentions

*We wish our leavers of 2018  
every success and best wishes  
for the years ahead of them*



**Ethan Bowmar (Yr 13)**  
BSc Food Science  
Otago University



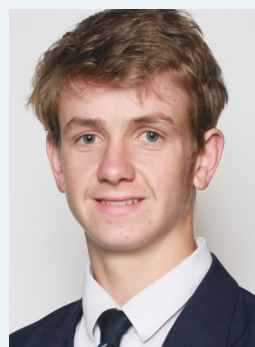
**Jack Clayton (Yr 13)**  
Cadetship, Jeff Farm  
Southland



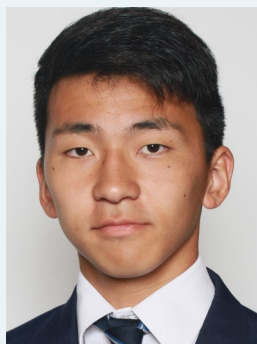
**Mac Edwards (Yr 13)**  
Health Sciences  
Otago University



**Cathal Guiney (Yr 13)**  
BCom  
Otago University



**Benji Hawes-Kenny (Yr 13)**  
Applied for Air NZ School of  
Engineering, Christchurch



**Yuki Hirama (Yr 13)**  
Psychology Degree  
Japan



**Matt O'Reilly (Yr 13)**  
Cadetship, Smedley Training Farm.  
Hawkes Bay



**Neil Paver (Yr 13)**  
BCom Ag  
Lincoln University



**Will Pudney (Yr 13)**  
BSci, Neuro Science  
Otago University



**Matt Rayward (Yr 13)**  
Applied for Air NZ School of Engineering,  
Christchurch



**Blake Tippet (Yr 13)**  
DipAg  
Lincoln University

## 2018 Leavers' Intentions



**James Watt, Yr 13)**  
Tennis Scholarship/Business Degree  
University of San Francisco



**Richard Irving (Yr 13)**  
Practical farm work prior to Lincoln  
University 2020



**Kallum Puttick (Yr 12)**  
Building Apprenticeship  
Stonewood Homes



**Tom Sutton (Yr 12)**  
Diesel Mechanic Course  
Ara Polytechnic



**Quinn Gledhill (Yr 9)**  
Day Boy in 2019



## Thomas House Redevelopment Committee

The Board of Trustees of Timaru Boys' High School look forward to 2019 when the newly built wing of Thomas House will be opened to accommodate our Year 12 and 13 students.

We continue to be grateful for the committed Thomas House Redevelopment team and the time they have contributed to ensure this building project becomes a reality.

The team, consisting of **Colin and Kate Murdoch, Virginia Callaghan, Susan Coker, Sue McNulty, Hamish Sheed, Peter Stayt and Karla Yeatman** have volunteered numerous hours to oversee completion of this huge project, working alongside our Project Managers, Logic Group.

An official opening is being planned for Term 1 2019.







## Money Matters

### Boarding Fees 2019

Boarding fees for 2019 have been increased to **\$13,200** per annum (GST inclusive). This will be **charged in three instalments over three terms** at the rate of \$4,400.00 (includes Amenities). Thomas House accounts will be mailed regularly and all invoices are due for payment four weeks from receipt of the invoice.

### Amenities Fees

This compulsory annual fee of **\$120** covers special activities, outings and purchases that benefit the boys and is non-refundable.

**Thomas House** bank account number is **12-3159-0038004-02**

[When paying by this method please ensure that your son's name appears on our bank statement]

**Please Note:** The account for Timaru Boys' High School is a separate account from Thomas House and is only available for boarders to add school related costs such as stationery, camps and course fees. Invoices will be issued monthly and parents are required to pay this account promptly. Expensive items such as uniforms must be paid at the time of purchase.

**Timaru Boys' High School** bank account number is **12-3159-0038004-00**

### Misc/Medical Charge

The amount of **\$200** is charged to boys' Hostel accounts when they enter Thomas House. This money is used to pay for Dr, pharmacy, mileage costs and any other minor miscellaneous costs associated with the boys' stay in the hostel. A spreadsheet is kept for each student, detailing the costs charged and is available upon request. When the amount drops to below \$100, parents will be charged an extra \$200 to "top up" available funds.

Please note, this is your money that we administer as a service to parents. Any monies remaining when your son leaves the hostel will be repaid along with the \$500 bond.

If you have any queries regarding this charge, please contact Carolyn Bunting on 03 687 7560 ext 703 or email [buntingca@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:buntingca@timaruboysschool.nz)





## 2019 School and Boarder Commencement Details

### Important note:

**Years 12 and 13: please bring your NCEA results to Course Confirmation**  
*If boarders are unable to attend, this can be done by email to the Senior Deans  
(check the school website for contact details)*

Monday 21 January School Office Opens

Wednesday 23 January Student Office Opens (uniforms available)

Monday 28 January	Year 13 Course Confirmation	1:00pm-3:00pm	
Tuesday 29 January	Year 12 Course Confirmation	10:30am – 12:00pm	Surnames A-M
	Year 12 Course Confirmation	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Surnames N-Z
Wednesday 30 January	Year 9 students: first day	8:45am onwards	(Normal Day)

**Thursday 31 January School commences for ALL Students at 8:45am**

The Hostel will open on **Tuesday 29 January**

**All Year 9 students** are asked to arrive at Thomas House by 3:00pm to be shown to their dormitories.  
An afternoon tea will be provided, to which all new entrants' families are cordially invited.

### Wednesday 30 January

All Year 9 entrants to Hogben Hall by 9:00am  
All year levels must be in the House for dinner by 6:00pm

### Thursday 31 January

8:45am start: A full School Day for all students

### Waitangi Day Wednesday 6 February

**The hostel will remain open for those who wish to stay in.**

The weekend of **9-10 February** will be a compulsory weekend for all Year 9 and 13 students.

### Thursday 7 February

Year 9 Parent Information Evening 6:30pm Hogben Hall

Ross Smith and Paula Cross can be contacted at the Hostel on 03 687 7169,  
the week before school commences.

Or on cell phones: Ross: 027 222 5458; Paula: 021 0279 3050

### Thomas House

Phone: 03 687 7560

Fax: 03 688 8219

Email: [smithro@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:smithro@timaruboysschool.nz) or [crosspa@timaruboysschool.nz](mailto:crosspa@timaruboysschool.nz)





Christmas Dinner 2018