

Timaru Boys' High School

Thomas House Newsletter December 2015

Special points of interest:

Junior Prizegiving
Friday 4 December
11:00am

2016 SCHOOL YEAR

- Monday 25 January
School Office opens
- Tuesday 2 February
Yrs 10,11,12 & 13 return
to Thomas House
by 6:00pm
- Wed 3 February
Year 9 arrive by 10:00am
- Thursday 4 February
8:45am full school day
- 6-8 February
Compulsory "OUT"
- 13-14 February
Compulsory "IN" for Yrs 9
& 13

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Message from the Director of Boarding



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Friends

Once again it has been an impressive year in the House. The atmosphere and culture has been positive and this can be directly attributed to the quality of young men in residence. It has been a real privilege as staff to have had the opportunity to have played a small part in the journey of those who leave us and we hope that they take away some positive memories of their time here, or at the very least, some excellent stories to embellish at future "Old Boy Reunions".

For those returning it is a time to re-charge the batteries and to look forward to the challenges that they will face in 2016.

The senior students set the tone of the house and I would like to thank them for their contribution in enhancing the positive atmosphere through their leadership. In particular I would like to thank **Alex Duthie**, **Shaun Coles** and **Jesse Drake** for the outstanding Christmas Dinner this year.

Thomas House students have featured in both Senior and Junior Prizegivings, culminating in **Jesse Drake** claiming the title of Dux of Timaru

Boys' High School and **Alex Duthie**, Proxime Accessit. What an outstanding achievement from both these young men!

The hostel's successes in the sports and arts have never been better and it is excellent to note the wide range of activities the lads are involved in along with the high level at which they excel.

To the families who choose to have your boys educated at Thomas House Timaru Boys', we thank you for your support and loyalty. We will endeavour to continue to prove that you have made the right decision in having your young men boarding at Thomas House.

To the staff of Thomas House, I thank you. All year you have strived to look after the boys in our care to the highest degree.

Our Catering Manger **Cate Sutherland** (pictured below) tendered her resignation as of 31 January 2016, after 19 years of inspirational service to Thomas House. Cate has made major changes over this time to the organisation of her department, producing quality food for our boys. She has always been innovative and open to new ideas, operating both the Timaru Boys' and Girls' Hostels catering services along with the school canteens, as well as providing top quality out-catering to a wide range of



organisations in the community. Cate has totally revitalised the catering during her time in charge and will certainly be missed for her drive and the enthusiastic manner in which she approached everything. We wish her well with her latest venture and if she displays only a third of the passion that she has at Timaru Boys', Cate will be a huge success!

I wish to thank everyone - students, parents, staff and board members - who have contributed to the successful outcomes achieved at Thomas House in 2015.

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 2016 school year.

Ross Smith
Director of Boarding



Message from the Rector

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to you all. Enjoy a fabulous Festive Season. It's hard to believe just how rapidly this year has raced by - both in the school and Thomas House. It seems like only last week we were busily welcoming all of the new boarders as they arrived at the door, laden with all manner of luggage, ready to set up in their new 'home away from home'. They came with some uncertainty and a few nerves but also with a feeling of excitement and anticipation. Now at the end of the year, they all leave us well - ensconced in the hostel and its positive routines. They leave as Thomas House boys. Considering the passage of time further, it also seems only last week that returning boarders reappeared; to start to reconnect to their mates, and again to access the plusses of the House and school. Some now leave for the final time. I'm sure

leaving prompts strong emotions but the memories and bonds forged in the hostel will be for life. I wish them all the best for their new undertakings in 2016. Once we start to itemise 'the year that was' in 2015 we of course soon see a multitude of activities and learnings experienced by the boys; all speak to the comprehensive and all-encompassing support and education we aim to provide in the Thomas House environment.

It is sometimes said that 'the best of Timaru Boys' can be found in Thomas House.' Not surprisingly our Day Boys may have an opinion on this assertion! If, however, we look at the resounding presence of Thomas House students in leadership roles and other distinctions in the school (most obvious in the 2015 Dux, Proxime Accessit and Head Boy - Jesse Drake, Alex Duthie and Shaun Coles respectively) we're alerted to the hostel's capacity to nurture qualities and expectations that foster excellence and good personal growth. We look forward to this being a Thomas House characteristic again in 2016; one not taken for granted, and one that continues to be the overriding aspiration of staff and the Board of Trustees.

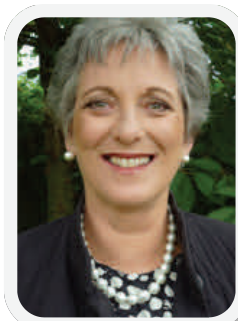
Staying with 2016, we're entering an interesting time. The redevelopment will be launched with able direction from a new steering group. It will be dedicated to building capital and other resources for the project and to informing the designs incrementally. The advantages of Thomas House will soon be extended for the future.

Have a great summer in the company of valued family and friends.

Nick McIvor
Rector

Left to Right:
Shaun Coles, (Head of School),
Alex Duthie (Dux),
Jesse Drake (Proxime Accessit)





Message from the Residential Manager

It is hard to believe 2015 is nearly at an end and once again we farewell our Year 13 group. It has been a privilege having these young men in the House and watching them develop into fine young adults over the last five years. I will watch with interest as they embark on the next stage in their lives and wish them all the very best. Farewell Tyler, Sam, Adam, Shaun, Jeremy, Jesse, Alex, William, Matthew, Jack, Wyatt, James, Marc, Jacob, Angus, Harry, Konrad, Kurt, Tom and Thomas – I will miss you. We have several other boys leaving at different year levels too and I wish them well – Ryan, Max, Kaleb, Mike, Mark, Cade and Sean.

I would like to thank the Prefect Team of 2015 for their contribution over the course of the year. **Alex Duthie** as Head Boarder, **Shaun Coles** and **Jesse Drake** as Deputies and the team of **Adam Chamberlain, Jeremy Cook, William Guerin, Jack Leslie, James Mackey, Angus Rollinson, Tom Wright** and **Thomas Yeatman**. Particular thanks for

organising the Year 9 stay-in weekend and the TGHS / Thomas House dinner quiz night.



Congratulations to the 2016 Prefect Team: **Liam Busse** (Head Boarder), **Tim Wills** (Deputy Head Boarder) and the Prefects **Sam Allan, James Bell, Thomas Bell, William Bishop, Sam Early, Flynn Schikker, James Steven** and **Bede Wright**. Next year we have introduced a new leadership role - Thomas House Sports Captain and this has been awarded to **Jake Edwards** (above). We look forward to Jake introducing a range of house activities and competitions.



Thomas House Prefects 2016

L to R : **James Bell, Flynn Schikker, Tim Wills, Sam Early, Liam Busse, James Steven, William Bishop, Thomas Bell, Sam Allan.**

Absent: **Bede Wright**

The Junior Prefect Team for 2015 has been working since the seniors commenced exams and this year they have been quite outstanding in their roles. A huge thank you to **Ryan Greenslade** (Junior Head Boy), **Mac Edwards** (Deputy Junior Head Boy) and the team of **Ethan Bowmar, Todd Ealam, Shane Fikken, Freddie Goodworth, Charlie Martin, Will Pudney, Matt Rayward, Ben Sands** and **James Watt**.

Recently we hosted the 2016 Year 9s for an overnight stay in the house, providing a good opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with the hostel and school. Meeting others in their year group helps to ease the transition into boarding and they all seemed to enjoy the visit. We look forward to having them start with us in early February.

The Thomas House Christmas/Leavers' Dinner was held recently in the dining room. We were joined by our Rector, Nick McIvor, his wife Clair and Board Chairman Warren Leslie, along with Board Representative Virginia Callaghan. Thanks to Cate Sutherland and her team for another beautiful meal. **Alex Duthie** and **Tom Scott** cut the Christmas cake and Thomas House Cups were awarded to the following boys:

Junior Housemasters Cup: Ryan Greenslade

Senior Housemasters Cup: Jeremy Cook

The Arthur Dyer Trophy: Tom Wright



Thomas House Junior Prefects 2016

[Front L to R] **Shane Fikken, Charlie Martin, Ryan Greenslade, Mac Edwards, Matt Rayward, Will Pudney**

[2nd row L to R] – **Ethan Bowmar, James Watt, Freddie Goodworth, Ben Sands, Todd Ealam**

This year's TBHS Senior Prizegiving was outstanding from a Thomas House perspective. Ross and I were like proud parents as so many of our boys crossed the stage to receive awards and certificates. The top three awards all went to boarders which I suspect could be the first time ever. Congratulations to **Jesse Drake** (Dux), **Alex Duthie** (Proxime Accessit) and **Shaun Coles** (Head Boy TBHS). Alex was awarded the *Maurice Hurst Cup* for service and leadership in Thomas House and Jesse the *Thomas House Jubilee Prize for Leadership*. Other recipients are too numerous to name but we are so proud of each and every one of you.

This year we also have the TBHS Sportsmen of the Year winners in our ranks. Congratulations to **Cameron** and **David Ellis** (pictured right) for taking out this prestigious honour. They won the NZ Secondary Schools Indoor Bowls Tournament in Wellington.



It is with sadness that we farewell our wonderful Catering Manager, **Cate Sutherland**. Cate has been part of Thomas House for nineteen years and has built up a superb out-catering business as well as running the day to day food requirements for our boys. We will miss her terribly and wish her well in her new business venture. Thanks Cate for the excellent service you have given to the hostel.

I would like to say a big thanks to all of you wonderful Thomas House Parents. I really appreciate the fantastic support and encouragement you give me each year. It is such a privilege looking after your sons and getting to know you all. Have a lovely Xmas and holidays with your families and I look forward to seeing you all again at the beginning of February.

Paula Cross
Residential Manager



Alex Duthie

Head of House: Valedictory Speech 2015

Five years have been and gone in what seems like five days; as the cliché saying goes, it feels like only yesterday I was making my bed in upstairs Fraser Wing for the first time (with the help of mum of course). Coming into the Hostel as a Year 9, I was lucky enough to have some of my old friends from Mid Canterbury in my year with me, and an older brother in Year 13 made my transition to hostel life a breeze, ensuring I stayed on the good side of seniors, remaining clear of dishes and dining room duties! While I knew a few familiar faces I soon got to know new people from other backgrounds; Kurt-Patrick Whittaker-Prendeville (Kurt for short) came from a mystical island far off the East Coast of the South Island where the existence of cars, roads or any basic civilisation was unknown; Adam Chamberlain or *Chambo* as everyone seemed to call him, came from a valley way out the back of Pleasant Point where personal relationships with sheep were questionable, and Jesse Drake was the boy genius from Geraldine.

I met the notorious Mr Smith and his array of punishment methods for various situations; Mr Sparrow the man with the fluffy moustache who apparently had lunch with some students on a Wednesday (but I never got invited) and of course Mrs Cross who was to be my temporary mum. I soon learned what a "grundy run" was, and that being terrible at pool came with worse consequences than I thought. Turd became less of a word rather, a status I'd get for my first year in the hostel and I discovered that if you came from Waimate, you'd never hear the end of it! I also soon found out that if you say or do anything stupid, you never live it down. I don't think Tom Wright's Thursday nights will ever be the same again!

Year 9 came and went in the blink of an eye, and I couldn't wait for my time to be a Year 10 and be on the dominating side of the turd line - this suddenly changed when strict rules were brought down over the turd line because of a questionable relationship between Kurt and Sam Early. Year 10 also had some additions to our year group in the hostel including Mitchell Curtis, Lucas Rosewall, Simon Peterson and of course Zane Robinson-Houlahan, who must have been good friends with Mr Smith as they always seemed to be talking in his office. By this time of my high school life, days were passing by faster than I could keep track of; like they say - time flies when you're having fun.

Before I knew it , the 2014 Christmas Dinner was right around the corner and Head Boarder applications were open. I jumped at the opportunity and handed my application in as fast as I could, feeling like I was the only one applying for a while until I wrote Kurt's application for him. The big night came and as we all waited for the Head Boarder announcement, Shaun and Jesse were appointed as deputies. I was sure Jack would be Head Boarder, as we had both been Year 12 Prefects. I couldn't believe it when my name was announced as the 2015 Head Boarder, and I have been truly honoured to have this privilege. Jack went on to become Head of Houses at school, along with Shaun as Head Boy and Jesse as Deputy Head Boy. I like to think that our year group has been one of the most successful I have seen come through Thomas House, with a large group of prominent leaders and sportsmen including 1st XV and 1st XI members, top academic students, and probably the most prominent farming future ever in Adam Chamberlain!

So many people help this boarding house function and I owe my thanks to all of these people. Thank you to Kathy and the laundry staff for cleaning my clothes basically every day for the past five years and never leaving a spec of mud on any of my rugby gear. To Cate and the kitchen staff , thank you for all the food over the past five years; the food has only gotten better since I've been here but after Year 9, I don't know if I'll be able to eat iced buns on a Friday ever again. Thank you to the other domestic staff for cleaning my room just about every day for the past five years, I can't begin to imagine what my room would have looked like without you.



Alex Duthie and Tom Scott cutting the Christmas Cake

Thank you to the Housemasters, Mr Mac, Mr Gibb, Mr Jones, Mr Bennison, Miss King, Mr Ivamy, Mr Booth and all the other Housemasters who have been here over my time for making sure I get out of bed every morning even though I never really wanted to. Mr Mac especially for teaching me the great life lesson of always leaving one door unlocked at night so people can come rob my house. Thank you to Mrs Cross for always looking out for me and being my temporary mum for my time at Thomas House - thank you for always being so thoughtful and caring, even though you laugh at my voice mail every time you hear it. Last but not least the big man himself, the captain of the ship, the warden, the overseer of our establishment, Mr Smith, I know our year hasn't been your number one favourite at times but with your persistence we turned out alright. You do a lot for this hostel and you may not get the recognition you deserve sometimes because a lot of boys probably don't realise how much you do for us, but I don't think I'd be the same person without your input into my life during my five years at Thomas House, and at this rate you might still be here when my kids come through.

To the Year 9s, you have a long way to go yet but it'll all happen faster than you think,. Enjoy being a junior while you can, as it doesn't last long. To the Year 10s, you have a big step up into the senior school next year with the beginning of NCEA for most of you—don't take these exams lightly and study hard because it will all be worth it when you come out into the real world. To the Year 11s, the transition to Year 12 may not seem like a biggy, but this is likely to be your most important academic year to set yourself up for tertiary education. Coming into Year 12 you need to start setting an example and becoming a role model to get noticed as someone for leadership positions in Year 13. To the Year 12s - get ready for a rollercoaster ride of a year in Year 13 next year. There will be great times of enjoyment, but others of stress and pressure. Plan your time well next year and don't give up because there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Last but not least to my fellow Year 13s, I wish you all the best for your endeavours next year and in the future, I'm sure I will see you all in the future to reminisce on all our times in Thomas House. We've been through a lot here and I've seen a lot of people change (eg William Guerin). It has been a great five years here at Thomas House, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have had this position of Head Boarder.

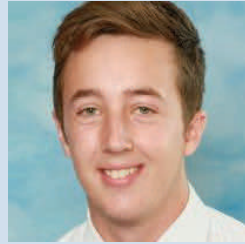
Some of the boys who have been through this boarding house may have not enjoyed their time as much as I did, but the little things like late night talks, weekend banter and the people whom I enjoyed it with, made everything that much better. I always found towards the end of a term I would find myself wanting to go home for the holidays, but by the end of the holidays I would always find myself wanting to return to the hostel.

I'll finish on how I started , with one of those clichés, leaving you with a quote. This is a quote by an Old Boy from Thomas House, "it's not until you leave the hostel that you realise how much you miss it".

Alex Duthie
Head Boarder 2015

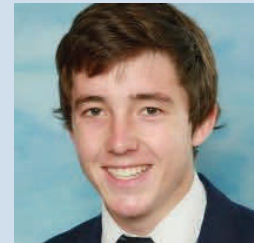
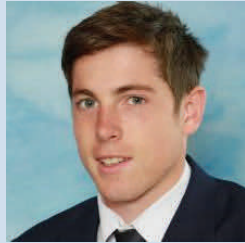
Leavers Intentions 2016

We wish our leavers of 2015 every success and best wishes for the years ahead of them



Sam Benny
Electrical apprenticeship in
Ashburton

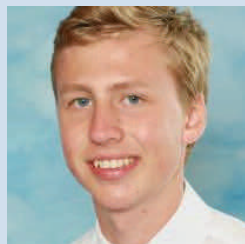
Tyler Blackburn
Electrical apprenticeship in
Ashburton



Adam Chamberlain
Bachelor of Agriculture
Lincoln University

Shaun Coles
Bachelor of forestry Science
Canterbury University

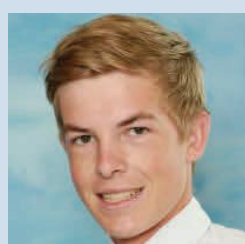
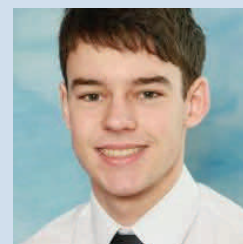
Jeremy Cook
Bachelor of Agricultural Science
Lincoln University



Jesse Drake
1st Year Health Science
Otago University

Alex Duthie
BSc Majoring in Computer
Science and Economics
Canterbury University

William Guerin
Bachelor of Agricultural
Commerce
Lincoln University








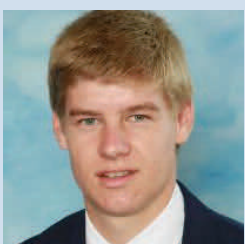



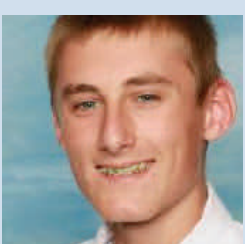


Matthew Hitchings
Bachelor of Science majoring in
Psychology
Victoria University

Jack Leslie
Bachelor of Commerce
Majoring in Psychology
Victoria University

Wyatt McAughtrie
Home to Parents' Farm

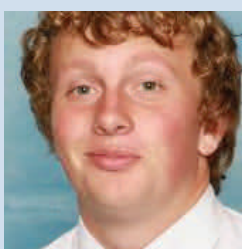
Leavers Intentions 2016

		
James Mackey Degree at NZ Broadcasting School	Marc Palmer Carpentry Course Aoraki Polytechnic	Jacob Rayward Mechanical Apprenticeship Christchurch
		
Angus Rollinson Bachelor of Environmental Management and Planning	Harry Sutton Diploma in Agriculture Lincoln University	Konrad Wall Bachelor of Law and Arts Canterbury University
		
Kurt Whittaker-Prendeville Building Apprenticeship Timaru	Tom Wright Diploma of Agriculture and Farm Management Lincoln University	Thomas Yeatman Bachelor of Agricultural Science Lincoln University
		
Cade Hollever Day boy in 2016	Ryan Davis Day boy in 2016	Max Goodwin Plumbing Apprenticeship

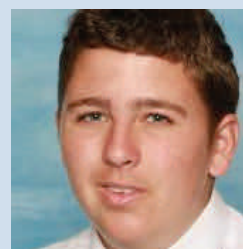
Leavers Intentions 2016



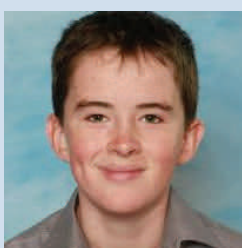
Kaleb Hunt-Wheeler
Day boy in 2016



Mike Moffett
Working on Crayfish Boat
Pitt Island



Mark Tarbotton
Harvest season in Australia



Sean Gregan
Day boy to Roncalli in 2016



2016 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:
 Year 12 Dean: Mr Gavin Miller millerga@timaruboysschool.nz
 Year 13 Dean: Mr Stephen Ross rossst@timaruboysschool.nz

Monday 25 January School Office Opens
 Wednesday 27 January Student office Opens

Years 12 and 13 (with NCEA results)

Monday 1 February	Year 13 Course Confirmation	10:00am – 12:00pm	
Tuesday 2 February	Year 12 Course Confirmation	10:00am – 12:00pm	Surnames A-M
	Year 12 Course Confirmation	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Surnames N-Z
Wednesday 3 February	Years 11/12/13	9:00am – 10:30am	
	Year 10	11:00am – 12:00pm	
	Year 9	1:00pm – 3:00pm	

Thursday 4 February School commences for ALL Students at 8:45am

Thomas House

Phone: 03 687 7560

Fax: 03 688 8219

Email: tbhs@timaruboysschool.nz

The Hostel will open on Tuesday 2 February. All boys in Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 must be in the House for dinner by 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY 3 February

Year 9 New Entrants are asked to arrive at Thomas House by 10:00am to be shown to their dormitories. There is morning tea at 11:00am to which all new entrants' families are cordially invited.

THURSDAY 4 February

8:45am start: A full School Day

The weekend **6-8 February** is a compulsory "OUT" weekend for all year levels due to Waitangi Day falling on Saturday 6 February.

The weekend of **13-14 February** is a **COMPULSORY "IN" WEEKEND** for all Year 9 & 13 boys.

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



"When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things - not the great occasions - give off the greatest glow of happiness." Bob Hope





TIMARU BOYS'
HIGH SCHOOL

Thomas House Redevelopment Update

DECEMBER 2015

NUMBER 2

*"When we recall
Christmas past, we
usually find that the
simplest things - not
the great occasions
- give off the
greatest glow of
happiness." Bob
Hope*

THANK YOU

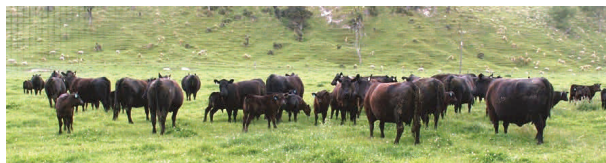
Thank you to all parents and members of the school community who attended the Thomas House Information Evening held at the beginning of the term. The survey replies have provided useful feedback for the Redevelopment Committee.

Parents who indicated that they would like to become involved with fundraising for the proposed Thomas House building project have met and held their first meeting.

Colin Murdoch will be Chairing the committee and Susan McNulty was appointed as Secretary.

The next meeting will be on 1 February 2016. The committee will be formulating an action plan to start the fundraising process.

THOMAS HOUSE PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Cattle Fundraising Scheme

This scheme continues to be an effective source of income for the Parents' Association.

A huge thanks to all those involved with the donation/rearing of calves and the subsequent finishing of stock.

To our cattle co-ordinators, **Colin Murdoch** and **Brent Schmack**, thank you for the considerable time that you give to this fundraiser.

We are fortunate to have the support of local stock transport firms Rural Transport, Mayfield Transport and Ryall Bush Transport and Peter Walsh and Associates as Stock Agents.

Both Colin and Brent have calves that need to be moved onto properties for finishing. If anyone is able to help, please contact them on the following numbers:

Colin Murdoch Phone 03 6855996 or Brent Schmack Phone 03 3026022

Warmest Christmas greetings to all members of the boarding community.

Virignia Callaghan
Chairperson
BOT Hostel Committee





**A very happy Christmas to you all
from the staff of Thomas House Hostel !**

