



Letter from Aryn

Aryn Amende was selected for a Rotary Youth Exchange Programme for 2020. He left on 12th January to live in Germany for a year.

Lieber Neuseeland,

My time overseas has shown me so much. On the way to Germany we stayed in America for a few days. We stayed in California and went to Hollywood, Universal studios and even Disneyland, all were so much fun. We even had a short stop in England; although that was much shorter it was still a nice experience. Both are beautiful places and from my experience, great people.

Once I arrived in Germany I had a weird sensation. It was more like returning than discovering. Like finding and reading an old book that you had lost. One strange thing is that I have family here that I have never met; I hope to once coronavirus dies down.

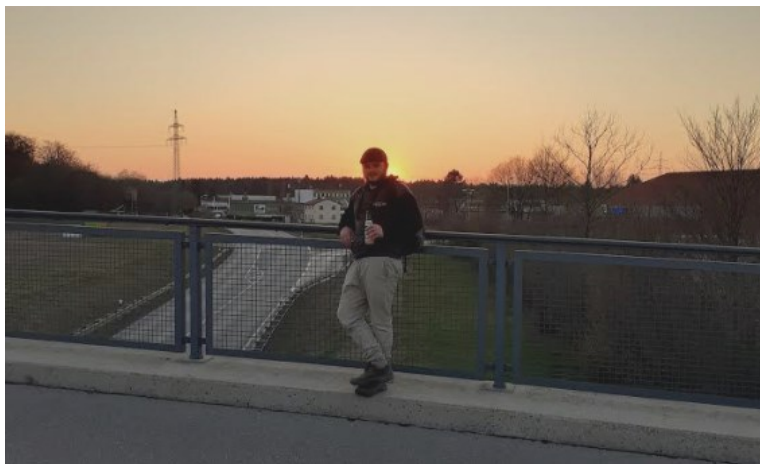
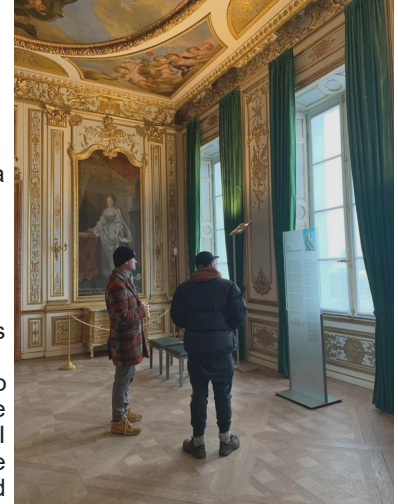
I am currently in a town called Gauting (it's near Munich). During my time in Europe so far I have been to ancient palaces like Schloss Nymphenburg in Germany and even the Austrian Imperial palace in Wien. I have even been in the room where König Ludwig II was said to be born. I spent two weeks in Austria on a language course. They were some of the best two weeks of my life. Like the Germans the Austrians are generally a kind and honest people. No one seemed pushy in crowds or anything, everyone is generally calm (unless there is a soccer game - then you can hear chanting everywhere).

Currently Germany is doing very well in these times and like NZ are even lifting restrictions. It's funny because although my German is now much better than before I still can't understand old Austrian people. One day an old Austrian lady tried to ask me something and I couldn't understand a word. The Austrians have a completely different dialect of German and it's kind of cool to hear it as that's how the English language started as well with the Saxon Germans. One day the Austrians might have a whole new language developed themselves.

Recently I have been in the woods a great deal, I have seen many cool little animals like squirrels and foxes, and big ones too like boar and deer and fortunately haven't run into any bears or wolves yet, although that would be a cool and frightening experience. It makes lone night walks a little tense thinking about such things but that adds to the fun. Bears and wolves are very rare in my area anyway.

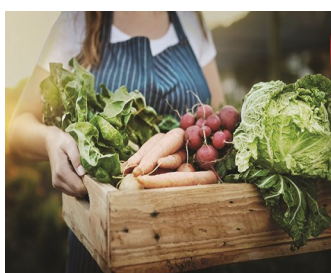
At the end of this month I head north to Berlin which I feel very excited about. It will make a great experience. I have a goal to visit my German grandfather after corona as well. I have much more I could write but I don't wish to write too much as I probably have already, but I have made many great experiences here and my mindset has changed completely. I have been finding myself always happy and far more accepting. Learning to speak German properly and being around a populace that is so friendly has changed me greatly. I can't wait to take this mindset back to NZ. I thank everyone that helped get me here.

*Liebe grüße
 Aryn*



Inside this week....

- School Newsletter
- Toko Training Report
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- Year 8 Food Tech
- Gym Report
- House Points
- Yr 9/10 Selfie Art



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Tokomairiro High School Newsletter ...

SCHOOL MISSION: Working together to inspire excellence in education, in character and in life.

Tena koutou katoa

What a delight to have most of our students back at school this week. It was lovely to see them in their uniforms and most seemed to be very happy to be back, and pleased to see each other. We will work closely with them this week to make sure they feel secure and supported in their learning.

Learning

Over the past 6 weeks students have been involved in online learning. Many have made great connections with their teachers and relished in the environment; others have found it much harder. Whatever it was like for your child, we are now here to support them all to move forward and take the best lessons we can from this enforced experiment. Whatever they do, they should not think about what has been lost over this time; think about what has been gained. Think about those new appreciations they now have for your whanau, for their classmates, many of whom they will have really missed, and for their teachers.

Learning that has gone on over lockdown has not just been academic learning. I imagine there are many other aspects of our young people that have changed a little, or even a lot. Maybe they have learnt to appreciate their mum or their dad more, decided their little brother or sister are not as bad as they perhaps thought they were, or recognised that their grandparents really do care about them. Maybe they have learned that they like to hide away and get stuck into a project, or that they can manage to

entertain themselves, or that they do have perseverance.

Health & Safety at School

The Ministry of Health has sent out clear guidelines regarding the health and safety precautions at school. An email with more information about Health & Safety has been sent home to all parents and caregivers. Frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer, along with spray sanitizer being used on desks between lessons, are all in place. Frequently used places like stair bannisters and door handles are being sanitized frequently. Any students who show any signs of illness should stay at home.

Online Lessons

For those students who have been unable to return to school,

lessons will continue to be posted on Google Classroom; however, 'live' lessons will not occur on line. Students are still able to email their teachers for some individual support.

Online Student Assemblies

Our Prefect Team will continue to have Thursday online assemblies. They are holding some exciting competitions and it was great to see the results of the Tik Tok competition last week. Each week Meg puts up a new audio clip to be used to present your own Tik Tok. Check this out on the school Facebook page.

Students Pastoral Support

Our student support systems are in place here at school. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to our House Group teachers, Deans and/or our Guidance Counsellor if they need extra support, if they need someone to talk to.

The Deans are:

Daryll Reddington – daryll@tokohigh.school.nz

Gemma Cowie – gemma@tokohigh.school.nz

The Guidance Counsellor is:

Ross Mckinnon - ross@tokohigh.school.nz

Parents – also feel free to make contact with your childrens teachers or any of the senior leadership team.

Finally, let us all continue to work together to keep New Zealand a safe place and make sure there is not a resurgence of Covid-19 in our country.

Nga mihi nui

Glenis Sim

Principal



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New Genesis Editor

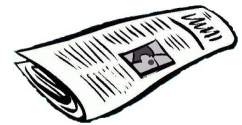
My name is Carolyn Shanks, and I took over the role as Genesis Editor on 30th March, after many years as an ECE Teacher and Teacher Aide.

Lockdown gave me the opportunity to ease into the job, but it was great to be delivering 1625 printed copies from the office last week!

I am looking forward to producing an interesting and relevant Genesis, so please do not hesitate to email me or talk to me about sharing stories and what is happening in our community. It is always good to have plenty of variety in our articles - and don't forget the photos! I am keen to hear your suggestions and feedback too.

I am in the Genesis office on Mondays and Tuesdays.

At other times you can email me at genesis@tokohigh.school.nz, or leave a message on 417 4483.



Flu Vaccines

Milton Medical Centre is now taking bookings for Flu Vaccinations. Please contact reception on 03 4178226 to make an appointment.

Eligibility for Free Vaccines:

*Those aged 65 and over

*Those under 65 with certain medical conditions

*Pregnant women

*Children 6 months – 5 years who have been hospitalized for respiratory illness or have a history of respiratory illness

We are now able to offer nonfunded flu vaccinations to anyone who wishes to have one at a cost of \$25. Persons over 65 are also eligible for the shingles vaccine, this can be given at the same time as the flu vaccine. For all other appointments please ring reception.

News From the Trenches

Its's official - we are back open!!!! Effective from this Thursday the RSA will reopen the doors to an expected flood of customers eager to reconnect socially after weeks of enforced Covid 19 lockdown.

However things have changed in order for RSA to comply with necessary health regulations. These must be adhered to as there will be no compromising over some of these compliance issues. There will be a register which you MUST sign in as you enter. Tables and bar learners have been moved to ensure the correct social distancing rules are complied with - so no hugging. There will be hand sanitisers readily available, so make sure these are used. If you are feeling ill, please stay at home - so not to put yourself or others health at risk. So lets be patient and everyone will have a great time.

Apart from that, it will be business as usual, our raffle night will kick off the festivities, so better get in quick to secure your spot, remember don't get too close.

It has been a while since the last report, and there hasn't been a lot of action. I'd like to acknowledge ANZAC Day, while we weren't allowed to formally commemorate the day, it was heartening to see a number of Milton locals stand at the

Cenotaph while a couple of wreaths were laid. It was very pleasing to hear the lone piper and drummer perform with aplomb.

In regards to the Super Rugby tipping comp, we still haven't made a final decision whether to continue with this comp, we may look at including either South Otago Club rugby games or possibly NRL games to make this a viable option. Stay tuned as this is currently a fluid situation with constant changes.

Poor old Paddy has been suffering a bit during lockdown, he's taken up crochet and aimed to make himself a blanket, but his talons kept getting in the way - stupid boy!!!!. Now he has taken up Yoga, so goodness knows how that will turn out.

Lets keep safe out there and I will see you down at the RSA on Thursday for a catch up. There was a rumour that another RSA member had a runaway vehicle, but thankfully Humpy rescued it in time. Before anyone asks, Tina Turner won't be making a surprise appearance on Thursday, as this RSA member is possibly looking to secure a deal to perform at Las Vegas.

Private Pike



Bible Reading for Today

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Tokomairiro Training

Operating at Alert Level 2 still brings its challenges for both the Forestry and Core Generic courses post Covid 19.

While Level 4 and Level 3 meant distant learning bubbles, two metres distancing, travel and transport constraints, it is good to now have some normality - all be it at a distance.

The Forestry Pathways course on Mondays and Tuesdays is back in full swing with students from South Otago, Taieri, Bayfield, Kavanagh and Otago Boys High Schools. They will be spending the next six weeks learning the practical skills needed for pruning and planting. Drug testing is compulsory for this course. While this course is designed for students to experience the career opportunities across the entire spectrum of Forestry and give them an industry overview, Tertiary study options and work placement are available.

Four of our eight students in 2019 chose to work towards Level 2 and Level 3 NCEA qualifications, gaining them employment in the forestry industry.

There are Core Generic students who have all enhanced their learning with Level 1 and Level 2 study in Literacy and Numeracy. Other unit standards including interview skills, resume writing, drivers licence, health and wellbeing and work place health and safety.

With the economy opening up, new opportunities will be available for career training options across many industries. Exciting times on the horizon!

Youth Guarantee

The Youth Guarantee course at Tokomairiro Training is for 16-17 year old students that no longer wish to return to school or are wanting to move into Tertiary Education. The course is comprised of both Core Generic and Forestry based unit standards and offers students the opportunity to gain NCEA at level 1 and level 2.

Each student has a Learning Plan customized to their individual needs which includes an emphasis on literacy and numeracy. The course provides travel for students and course costs are funded by the Tertiary Education Commission under the Youth Guarantee funding. Students are able to enroll with us and start their training at any time during the year.

House Points Update

Reid 2089

Ross 1859

Ayson 1765

Malcolm 1732

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Year 8 Food Tech in Lockdown

Level 3 Lockdown didn't stop the Year 8 Food Technology Students.

Their assignment last week was to make a Lockdown Afternoon tea for the people in their bubble. They made a simple syrup lemonade and easy pikelets and some of the students added a bit of creative flair to their cooking. Judging by the photos that were sent in, these looked so appealing that I could almost taste them! I am sure the recipients were very appreciative of the work the students put into preparing such a yummy afternoon tea!

- Carol Bungard



Vann's afternoon tea with extras



Will's lemonade



Deacon making pikelets



Callum's lemonade



Elliot's afternoon tea

Gym Report

The Tokomairiro Community Recreation Centre Trust committee and staff welcomes you back to the gym. We were able to open the gym again from last Thursday and are following strict Level 2 guidelines to keep our community and ourselves safe from Covid-19.

Exciting news!!! We now have 24 Hour Access.

Anybody who would like to use the gym after office hours can purchase a fob for \$20 on top of their membership fee and access the gym anytime. The \$20 is a bond and is refundable if you hand it in. This brings great flexibility for our community. All weekend use – and even access to the gym on statutory holidays!! To be able to use 24/7 access, a contract agreement must be filled out. We hope this will bring new members to our fabulous facility. Please call at the gym between 8 am and 5 pm on weekdays to join up. Our contact details are:

Ph: 034177066

Email: tokogym@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook and like our page:
Tokomairiro Community Recreation Centre

Keep Moving – Strength and Balance classes for the older generation have resumed on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2.30 pm. We will be keeping 2 metres apart while completing our exercises during Level 2. The cost is \$3 and all are welcome.



Hort Report

The Hort Department would like to thank all those who donated gumboots to us prior to lockdown. We would love a few more pairs to get us through the winter, so if you have any spare pairs lying around, we would gratefully accept them. We are also in need of some empty 20-25kg bags for sawdust and manure.

The Hort Shop will be open this Wednesday 1pm-4pm.

Please follow social distancing rules and bring your own bags and boxes.

Personal Data 'Selfies'

During Lockdown, Year 9/10 Art students created a "Selfie" portrait using personal data.

This creative activity is inspired by designer Giorgia Lupi. Each shape, pattern or mark represents a certain element of the individual. For example dots represent age, one dot for each year. A black half circle means you are a night owl, whereas yellow means you are a morning person, or you may be both!

Try this at home it is a lot of fun, maybe a family portrait!



By Makayla Wills

By Samuel Norman



Head Prefects Catch-Up

Meg Clark and Zayde Francis share their thoughts on the highlights of lockdown, and of being back at school.

Meg - Highlights of Lockdown.

Seeing more of my family
Sleeping in!
Having time to do school work at home

Being back at school

Catching up with friends and teachers
Getting back into school life
Having fun with everyone



Zayde- Highlights of Lockdown

Reconnecting with my family
Having time to do things like go for a run
Learning independently - good practice for Uni next year!

Being back at school

Being back in a routine
Catching up with friends
Taking on the role of Head Boy again.



Protect yourself
and others from
COVID-19



Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

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Genesis Articles

We are very grateful for all the articles and photos we receive. We try our best to publish them all on the week provided but sometimes due to space restraints we are unable to. If your article is not printed in the week submitted, our goal is to publish it in the next Genesis issue.

Thank you for your support.

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