



# VERDON COLLEGE

## Newsletter

16 April 2014



### Tena koutou katoa

I am very pleased to reflect on a fantastic term in which we have had so many successes and some great occasions. I have been so pleased with the real sense of purpose and positive atmosphere within the College this year. This term has certainly set a tone for the year and I am looking forward to building on this environment in term two after we have all had a well-earned break.

The Southern Schools sports tournament over last weekend was again a great success. It is a great opportunity to test ourselves at the beginning of a sports season. The tournament provides a wonderful opportunity to build links with Catholic schools in the lower South Island and it is clear to see the bonds forming between the students from the five schools.

I was very impressed with the tenacity and commitment of our students across all of the sports and if we had not had a few disappointing injuries we would have done very well over all. I was also very impressed with the leadership and the positive relationships between the older students with the younger students that are new to the tournament and would like to congratulate all students on their school spirit and camaraderie. Congratulations to the girls basketball and girls netball who were first equal in their sports for the tournament.

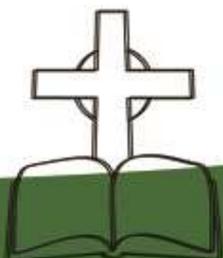
Today we have held our colours assembly it is another wonderful celebration of the outstanding success of our students. Our overall results in NCEA are well known but we can be extremely proud that 85 of our senior students will be acknowledged at this occasion for achieving endorsement certificates last year at all levels of NCEA. Alongside this is the level of achievement in sporting and cultural endeavours that continues to grow across a range of sports, with an outstanding 60 colours awards being presented at this year's Assembly.

I would ask that as a community that we pray for families that that have lost loved ones in recent times. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

I trust that all students and families have a great week and wish you all a happy and Holy Easter

### Ki O Rahi

On Tuesday the 8th of March, fifteen year 11 students from Verdon College attended the Matariki Ki-O-Rahi tournament held at Te Whare Kura. Verdon was one of thirteen secondary schools present at the event, which is getting more popular every year. I was impressed with the students at the tournament who all played hard, but fair and became more tactically aware of the rules involved with Ki-O-Rahi. Ki-O-Rahi is a sport that is still in the development stages at Verdon, but the enthusiasm for it shown by staff and students is sure to see it grow very quickly in the near future.



God Bless  
Jarlath Kelly

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### From Father Martin

On Palm Sunday Jesus rides triumphant into Jerusalem. On Easter Sunday Jesus rises triumphant from the tomb. We call the 'in between' days 'Holy Week'. During this week Jesus changes the course of history forever.

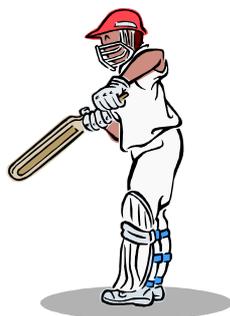
Jesus gives a totally new meaning to life and to death through his suffering death and resurrection.

The Caritas Lenten Reflection resource for this year was titled 'Open up a horizon of Hope'. This title came from Pope Francis Inaugural homily on 19 March 2013 when he said "Today too, amid so much darkness we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, in to open up a horizon of hope".

In the year or so that Pope Francis has led our Church he has certainly encouraged all of humanity to look closely at themselves. Yes, he has made a number of significant changes within the Vatican, but more importantly in his own humble way he encourages every person to embrace the life and person of Jesus Christ. In his first Encyclical under the title Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith) Pope Francis wrote "Jesus Christ in his life and his death, has taught us the fullness of faith. As a result he is not simply the one in whom we believe, he is the one with whom we are united precisely in order to believe. Faith does not merely gaze at Jesus but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes. It is a participation in his way of seeing" ..... "We 'believe' Jesus when we accept his word" ..... "We 'believe in' Jesus when we personally welcome him into our lives and journey towards him, clinging to him in love, and following his footsteps along the way'.

### Cricket News

On Saturday 5 April Verdon College won the Secondary Schools Junior Cricket Competition against SBHS. SBHS batted first and were all out for 111 Verdon College made 112 for 6. The win coming with Stu Baker hitting a six. The squad for this team was Michael Walker, Blair Duffy, Stuart Baker, Liam Cullen, Keiran DeGoldi, Dylan van der Schuit, Sam Downing, Fabian Scott-Russell, Mitchell Orlowski, Eli Winders, Callum Knight, Jacob Downing, Connall Breen, Joel Baker, Jordan Goodall.



Due to other sport commitments Verdon College was only able to field a ten man team and three of the players were only Year 7. A special thanks has to go to Peter Downing for coaching and managing this team. Verdon College cricket looks to have a good future.

### 2014 Southland Secondary Schools Cookery Competitions

These annual competitions were held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at Southland Boys' High School. Entries were open to all Year 7-13 Foods students wishing to take up the challenge of preparing food to be judged by a panel of local chefs. Around twenty Verdon students skillfully produced mouthwatering delights for the judges. The decadent iced cakes were a real feature this year with their creative and well-executed decorative finishes.

Results were as follows:

Decorated Fruit Flan – 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Amber McLean-Kidd, Year 13; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Charlotte Janse van Rensburg, Year 13.

Quiche – 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Hannah McDonald, Year 13; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Charlotte Janse van Rensburg, Year 13.

Uncooked Slice – 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Nathaniel Topi, Year 8; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Ben Everest, Year 8.

Decorated Cakes – 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Madison Brown, Year 11.

First place-getters each received a high quality chef's knife with those in 2<sup>nd</sup> place receiving recipe books. Well done to all those who entered and gave up many hours of their time practicing their recipes in the lead up to the competition.



### Track & Field

At recent National Track and Field Championships in Wellington, Liam Cullen gained a 4th placing in the U18 men's 2000m Steeplechase. His time set a new Southland record for M15. He was 13th in the 3000m run.



## The Sound of Music

Tickets are now on sale for this years production of The Sound of Music. The performance dates are as follows:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Wednesday 21st May | 7.30pm |
| Thursday 22nd May  | 7.30pm |
| Friday 23rd May    | 7.30pm |
| Saturday 24th May  | 3.30pm |
| Sunday 25th May    | 2.00pm |

Tickets are now on sale from ticketdirect on [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) up or from them CUE TV SIT Arcade on Don St. except for Family tickets. Please note these are not available from the school this year. Ticket prices are as follows:

Adult \$22.00

Student \$12.00

Family \$50.00 (If you are wanting a family package you will have to go in and book with ticketdirect or ring 2146 900 and book and pay with a credit card over the phone. This ticket is for 2 Adults and 3 Students).

## Triathlon

At the National Schools' Triathlon held recently in Gisborne, Olivia Thornbury placed 5th in the U16 female triathlon (4th New Zealand-er). She was also 10th in the Open Water Swim and 8th in the Aquathon.



## Another Picture from the Cookery Competition



## Ki O Rahi Tournament



|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 17 April   | Last Day of Term                           |
| 5 May      | First Day of Term 2                        |
| 9 May      | Year 7/8 Swimming Programme Starts         |
| 12 May     | Otago University Open Day                  |
| 19/25 May  | School Production Week<br>"Sound of Music" |
| 14 June    | School Ball                                |
| 18 June    | Junior Catholic Schools Sports Tournament  |
| 19 June    | Big Sing                                   |
| 26/27 June | Year 11 Retreats                           |
| 4 July     | Interhouse Music Festival                  |
| 4 July     | End of Term                                |
|            | Mid Year Reports Posted                    |



## BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMP

Wednesday 23 & Thursday 24 April

STADIUM SOUTHLAND  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ages 7 – 14 years

\$60 registration

# “Verdon College the right choice”

## South Island Secondary Sports

The South Island Secondary Schools Athletics Champs was held in Timaru over the weekend of 5th-6th April. The results were as follows:

Dorothy Samai 12th in high jump

Olivia Thornbury 5th in 1500m

5th in 400m

Liam Cullen 4th in 3000m  
6th in 1500m



## Southland Secondary Surfing Championships

Congratulations to Abby Humm who was recently placed 3rd in the Southland Secondary school surfing championships in the U14 girls.



## Year 12 Triathlon

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April the Year 12 PE class competed in the ILT Ascot Park Hotel Short Distance Triathlon. After only 8 weeks of training they all completed a 300m swim, 15km bike and 3km run on a pretty fresh and breezy Southland morning. First home for the Verdon boys after an exceptionally fast bike and run leg was Terry Thurlow and not far behind was our fastest girl Tina Wright. It was the first time competing in a triathlon for many of the students and Mrs Scully was extremely proud of the effort every student put in. A big thank you to all the parents who came and supported us on race day and to Mrs Marshall for all her help during this unit.



- Checklist
- Catholic education
  - High expectations
  - Gifted & talented
  - Smaller classes
  - Family feel

“Superior  
educational  
outcomes”