



Longburn Adventist College

# Boarding FYI Newsletter

February 2012



New beginnings

experience of a lifetime



Longburn Adventist College

Meet the girls & guys of 2012...



experience of a lifetime



## Message from the principal...

2012 brings a new year for all of us, a new school for many and a fresh start for everyone. When I see all the new faces in boarding I'm mindful of the potential within all of these students and their ability to succeed personally, spiritually and academically.

When young people are asked their favourite text it frequently is Jeremiah 29:11. *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".*

Hope brings the prospect of a positive future and drives all of us on, particularly so young people.

My prayer for all our students and their families is that 2012 will see hope grow within them, that God's plan to prosper each of us will come to pass and that this year will be the best yet.

Remember hope drives all of us on!





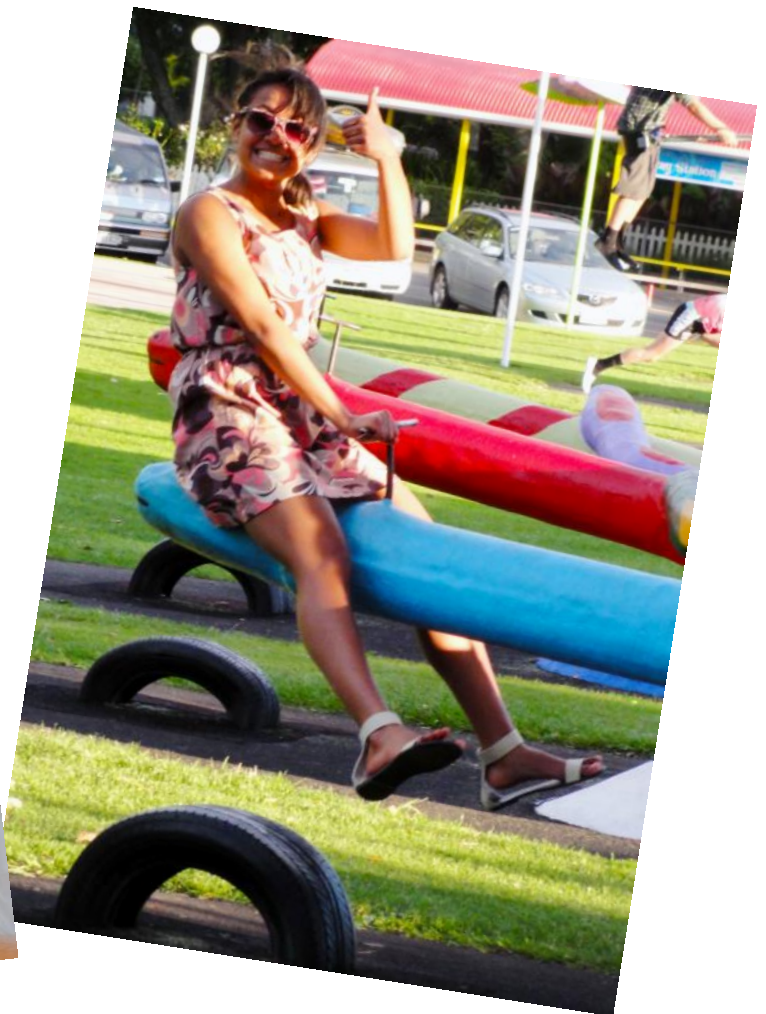
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## Director's Corner

Greetings to all our boarding parents/caregivers from LAC Boarding 2012. It has been a great start to the year with 33 girls and 24 boys in boarding - a staggering 57 boarders and still growing...Praise God. We would also like to welcome Mr Eifion Paul (Wales), Mr Lowell Tischler (Avondale College) and Miss Lejone Morris (California) as full time Volunteer Assistant Deans in the girls' and boys' dorms. A special welcome to returning part-time staff Mrs Silleste Shepherd (nee Craig), Miss Kerry-Lee Grayson and new member Miss Kiri Sharp.

As we head into week 4 of this term - settling into dorm routines, adjusting to a new environment of family and friends is made easier with everyone working together as a team. Please do not hesitate in contacting me anytime regarding questions you may have about your child's boarding life at LAC. Once again, thank you for choosing LAC to educate, encourage and empower your child - Have a wonderful day in Him - Kind regards - Maria Henry mobile (021987161).



experience of a lifetime



## Introducing the 2012 Dormitory Staff...

Maria Henry - Director of Boarding & Girls' Dean

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Greetings from LAC Boarding! I started at Longburn in 1990 as a full time teacher. My family of Roy (husband), Norman, Daniel, Francesca and Juliana came to Longburn with no expectations of the new life God had intended for us.

In my time as an LAC teacher, then Director of Boarding, I have seen a lot of changes in education that have shaped the nature of boarding. Why does LAC boarding exist? Because of the school relationship between the LAC Board of Trustees (Govt) and Board of Governors (church). I have been blessed with a wonderful supportive team of administrators such as our school principal, deputy and academic staff together with the dormitory staff. I definitely believe - 'It's a great life at LAC'.

Roy Henry - Boys' Dean

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My name is Roy Henry-Taripo. I've been associated with Longburn Adventist College for 22 years and as a Residential employee for 9 years.

I have twin daughters and two foster boys who completed high school at LAC. As a family we have always believed in having Jesus as a partner in our lives, for without him we are nothing.

I give God gratitude and thanks for the opportunity to work with young people. It's a great feeling seeing HAPPY young people. People wonder how on earth we cope. It is Jesus who makes all things possible. Thank you to all the parents and supporters who make it possible for these young people to have an LAC experience, "To Educate, encourage, empower".





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## 2012 Girls' Assistant Deans

### Silleste Shepherd

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Congratulation to Silleste and Ben Shepherd on their recent wedding. Silleste has worked as an assistant dean in the Girls' Dormitory and she is a teacher at LAC. We wish Silleste and Ben God's richest blessings for their marriage. We know they will be a very happy couple.

### Lejone Morris

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Miss Lejone Morris has just arrived at LAC from California to take on the role of assistant dean in the Girls' Dormitory. She comes with a MA in educational counselling and a lot of experience in youth ministry. She has visited NZ twice before to speak at church conferences and she has been the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Whittier SDA Church in California.



*experience of a lifetime*



## 2012 Boys' Assistant Deans

Eifion Paul



Hi my name is Eifion (eye-vee-on) and I'm just a rugby fan from Wales. I've taken this once in a lifetime chance to stay in New Zealand after the World Cup having always dreamt of visiting your beautiful country. Since the work situation in Wales was very quiet, I thought why not work and travel here? My training is in Industrial Design but I've always enjoyed helping out and organising youth activities back home.

I first heard of the opportunity to work at LAC through contact with Eman's family (who used to go to my home Church in Swansea). I was intrigued to find out what this totally new role for me would be like so I visited in December. After one weekend, meeting the remaining

students and Mr & Mrs Henry, I was really thankful that they accepted my application. Working with all the staff here, especially Mr & Mrs Henry has already been a great blessing. It's clear that everyone here wants the best for the students. I pray that I can help the boarders through the year and see them leave fulfilled with many happy memories.

Lowell Tischler

Yes I know it's kind of like the Christmas carol; LoL, if it helps you to remember my name, then yeah, why not. I'm from the "other" land down under. Play the violin, dabble in guitar and a bit of piano but don't ask me to play. Was really good at maths, back in my high school years, absolutely loved it. (Who doesn't, right?). Been at Avondale College studying theology but I felt God might be calling me to different horizons. I connected with James Topp, a previous assistant dean, and thought I'd give this dean thing a go. It's already been an experience, just interacting with the students the last two weeks. I can see that God has brought me here for a reason and although there may be some tough moments ahead, at the end of the day if God brought you to it He will bring you through it. I can't wait to see what God has in store not only for me but for the students also. Who knows what the next 10 years will bring?





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## Chaplain's Thoughts

We start a new year with mixed emotions and uncertainties. The constant in all of what we will face is that of Christ's companionship. He will never leave us or let us get into something that is too big for us to handle alone.

This year, with a large number of new boarding students in the dorms, that reliability is something that I want them to grab hold of, and learn to trust Jesus like never before.

Our ASPIRE programme is up and running and I have already been encouraged by the support of the new deans in enhancing this programme even more.

I look forward to watching our students' characters become more Christ-like as the year progresses.



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# Swimming Sports



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# Swimming Sports



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## Head Girl - Priscilla Tuareka

*First Day of 2012 Speech - Welcoming The Year 7 & 8 Students to LAC*

Hello. My name is Priscilla Tuareka. I am the Head Girl of Longburn Adventist College for this year and it is my special privilege, on behalf of the Head Boy, the Prefects and the student body, to welcome our intermediate students, especially our new students, and their families to our school.

LAC is a very special place to many people. It's more than an ordinary school. Throughout the year, you'll experience many things. You'll participate in sports. You'll be given lots and lots and lots of homework. You'll get to know your teachers who are all lovely people. You'll play music. You'll create art. You'll make heaps and heaps of new friends. You may strengthen your own faith. And along the way, you'll discover that LAC is so much more than a school. It's a family. It's a place where you start to see that amazing person you want to become in the future.

It's the place to be. It's the experience of a lifetime and I want each and every one of you to take it. It's all yours. But before you take it, I'd like to share with you a Bible verse that's very close to my heart and to the hearts of many students who have passed through this school. I pray this verse may one day be very close to you as well. Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope and a future."

God brought you to LAC for a special reason. He has a great plan for your life and don't ever forget it. If you need any help throughout the year, don't be shy to come to me, the Head Boy or any of the other Prefects who you'll meet very soon. Thank you. Enjoy your year. God bless.



Priscilla with the Prime Minister, John Key, last month.

*experience of a lifetime*



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Making friends and  
having fun together...



experience of a lifetime



## New Students ...

Jackson - Year 11 from Australia

### What made you come to LAC?

I wanted a new experience I guess, just wanted to try something new. Some of my relatives have come here (including my brother) and every single one of them said it's an amazing school, so they influenced me a fair bit. And to me boarding life sounded exciting; living with your friends 24/7, having a blast.

The thing that made me come to LAC the most would probably be that it's a SDA school, and the idea of boarding life sounded different and exciting.

### What have you enjoyed most so far?

Everything, It's been an amazing experience at LAC. Living with your friends is a great lifestyle. We have so much fun. The trips on Saturday afternoons are great. We have walks and visits to parks. Study is good as well, because I actually do homework, and I'm motivated too.

Luther - Year 10 from Whangarei

### What made you come to LAC?

What urged me to come to LAC was hearing all the awesome experiences at Big Camp 2011-2012. Their experiences appealed to me as if God had wanted me to hear them. That was when I decided to add LAC as one of my options for school.

After 3 weeks of thought I made the decision to come to LAC. After discussing the matter with my parents, they agreed and I was off...

### What have you enjoyed most so far?

Now that I'm finally here I'm having a great time, One of the best things about boarding here is that I get to live with my friends. We also study together which for me is a plus because we can ask each other for help if we are in the same class.

We have regular town trips if we need stationery or supplies. Most of the people here are open and are easy to get along with. I think coming to LAC was a good decision.



Top: Luther (left) and Jackson. Bottom: Douglas



Douglas - Year 7 from PNG

### What made you come to LAC?

I came to LAC because I wanted to study more on my school work and learn how to speak English well.

### What have you enjoyed most so far?

I've made new friends, and the big boys help me in my school work and we've already been out to a park.

There are no bullies in boarding and the big boys treat me as their little brother.



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# Weekends with the boarders...



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## 2012 Boarding Prefects



### NCEA Results 2011

LAC's NCEA results continue to be impressive. For 2011 our NCEA pass rates were: (The percentage of students achieving NCEA with Excellence, Merit and Achieved endorsements are also given)

<b>Level 1</b>	87.8%	(12.3% excellence, 26.5% merit, 49.0% achieved.)
<b>Level 2</b>	86.7%	(2.3% excellence , 11.1% merit, 73.3% achieved.)
<b>Level 3</b>	88.7%	(7.5% excellence , 20.8% merit, 60.4% achieved.)

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## Tragic Loss of Seth Mariu

December 17 was a very sad day for the college community as we learnt of the tragic death of Seth Mariu in a car accident while on his way to church. Seth was a boarding student at LAC during 2008 and 2009. He was a student dean in the Boys' Dorm and endeared himself to the boarders and day school students with his warm generous nature and a great sense of humour. Seth was gifted with his hands and made some impressive furniture while a student at LAC. He graduated from Year 13 at the end of 2009.

Seth's Tangi at Waiteteko Marae was a testament to his love for others, his devotion to his family and his faithfulness to the Lord Jesus. Seth had very fond memories of LAC and his family decided to bury him in his college uniform. He was proud of his school and we were proud him. We look forward to the resurrection morning when we will meet with Seth again.



Seth Mariu (right) and his father Maihi (Frank) Mariu.





## NZ Herald Newspaper Article About Seth Mariu

When police found Seth Mariu's lifeless body in his Subaru Impreza after a fatal collision, they came across a copy of the Bible open on the front passenger seat. The 19-year-old mechanics student was travelling south from his Hamilton home to Taumarunui to pick up his father, Frank Mariu for a church service in Raetihi on Saturday morning. But conditions were wet and Seth is understood to have lost control of his car on a corner of State Highway 4 about 8.15am, about 12km south of Te Kuiti where he collided with a northbound BMW. The second youngest of five siblings, Seth died at the scene. The female driver of the other car was admitted to Te Kuiti Hospital with minor injuries.

Yesterday, Frank Mariu spoke of his son whom he said was a devoted Christian with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, who never smoked or drank. "Police made the comment that when he crashed, his Bible must have been flung open," said Mr Mariu. "It was on the front seat next to him." Mr Mariu said a post-mortem examination revealed his son had died of internal injuries. He said his son was a responsible driver who had driven the windy SH4 between Taumarunui and Te Kuiti many times. The Mariu family are now awaiting a report from investigators who are still trying to determine the cause of the accident. "He used to work with a mechanic in Hamilton who said that Seth was a good driver, a safe driver who never did wheelies." Apart from his interest in engines and cars, Seth was also a keen scuba diver, skier and snowboarder. He had also recently taken up rodeo. "He had a lot of interests and was involved in activities but I can't



stress enough how deeply devoted he was to his faith," said Mr Mariu.

Waikato road policing manager Inspector Leo Tooman said Mr Mariu's Subaru had rotated clockwise before being struck by the oncoming vehicle. His death has been reported to the coroner and takes the region's road toll to 51 this year. Mr Tooman said analysing the cases this year, police had identified a concerning trend. "Of the 43 fatal crashes 16 involved cars losing control on a curve or corner and 28 have involved vehicles

not keeping left or staying in their lane." "A number of contributing factors have been identified in these crashes which include ... over consumption of alcohol, driving too fast for the conditions including over the speed limit of signposted corners, driver fatigue and driver inattention which can include using a cellphone or even the car's stereo." Mr Tooman said there was a degree of avoidability in many of the crashes.

"At the end of the day we can lose sight of the humanity by getting embroiled in numbers but this is 51 families who will be without loved ones to celebrate Christmas with this Sunday. "I can assure you police and other emergency staff dealing with the trauma and follow-up work do not lose sight of the tragedy, our message is nothing is so urgent as to speed or drive when you shouldn't, allow yourself plenty of time to get where you need to this holiday season," Mr Tooman said. Seth Mariu's tangi is to be held today at Waitetoko marae, south of Taumarunui.

By James Ihaka