

Carruth Hostel - Head Boarders Report 2018

As my final year at not only Whangarei Boys' High School, but also Carruth House comes to an end I continuously look back at my past 5 years very proud and happy of what we have achieved, but also sad that my time here has come to an end. This house has definitely been a highlight of my life, being a nonstop source of entertainment, excitement but also gives a sense of culture and belief. Through both the good and the bad, Carruth has been the major point in turning me into the fine young man I am today. It is sad knowing that now once I leave, I will not be returning. Through the good and the bad times here, it has built me into the man I am today, making me proud to say I am, and always will be, a mighty Carruthian.

Five years is a long time, but it only feels like yesterday that 12 year old Leon made the jump from Kaikohe, to the wide world of opportunities that is Whangarei Boys' High School and into Carruth House. It only seems like yesterday that I was unpacking my gear for the first time into a little cubical that I was going to call home for months to come. This was the start to a journey of many adventures where I would eventually make lifelong friends I would call my brothers.

This year in particular has been a tough year, juggling the pressure of schooling along with keeping up with sports and a social life, all while leading a house of around 60 odd boys, has been a task. But one that at the same time, has been very rewarding and fulfilling, achieving things I would have never thought I would have in my lifetime. I feel that Carruth has only gotten stronger coming through to the end of the year, with the brilliant help of the House Masters and also the Prefects of 2018.

I believe one of the biggest reasons Carruth has stood its ground through challenges faced is due to our Director of Boarding and the amazing team of staff we have here at Carruth House. The team is lead by our Director, Mr Ian Rowe who has been here for a number of years now, bringing a great deal of enthusiasm, experience and wisdom to this position. I can honestly say that with Mr Rowe in charge of the house, Carruth has become a much safer, stronger hostel and will only continue to grow in strength as the years come. But with Mr Rowe's heavy workload, not only being Headmaster of Carruth Hostel, he is also a part-time teacher at the school and President of the Rotary Lions Club of Whangarei, It is important to have a strong well-rounded group of staff to help run the hostel. Mr Ian Rowe does a fantastic job of managing this team.

Our Senior House Master, an ex-Carruthian, Campbell Gene Norman upholds the tradition of Carruth House. Mr Norman, who brings his inside knowledge of Carruth to the role, has used that knowledge to be the master he is today, and would have liked to have had back in his time, a heartfelt and influential master, but also one to keep the traditions and formalities Carruth has had for the last 81 years. House master Mr Carlos Tikenā, an extremely likeable and friendly master, has gained respect from every single boy here, and no doubt loves working here at Carruth, as it shows in everything he does.

Other members of the team are the lovely Miss Tania, who keeps the traditions within the hostel alive, and helps out wherever she can, whether it be through Carruth or through the School at the Canteen, and the only two house masters to have been here since my Yr9, Matua Ted and Mr Nand. The boys love having you supervising every weekend, bringing your own sense of humour and style to Carruth. You two are here every weekend ensuring Carruth is safely secured and boys aren't up to no good. Carruth would not be the same without any of you here, and you are all the reason why we boys love coming to Carruth House.

Carruth owes a special thank you to our very own Angel, our Matron, Mrs Kiri Hauraki. Ever since my very first day here, weekday mornings always start with your voice. Along with this, you are busy all day with basically being the mum to the 60 odd boys here at Carruth.

Also a big thank you to the domestic staff here at Carruth House, the lovely ladies who cook and clean, Mrs Sue and Mrs Evanka. They provide both delicious and nutritious food for us every day, keeping us full and healthy. Mrs Maurice you legend! Powering through all our washing while also cleaning up the dorms while we're at school is a task that only you could do. I cannot thank you all enough for the work you have done for making Carruth the clean and healthy environment that it is today.

The Inter-Whānau competition at school this year has been more of a challenge than ever, with all the other whānau (except Bledisloe!) upping their game and pulling ahead of Carruth. Our dominant streak has slipped this year. The Carruth whānau lead by Jayden Maugham, even though they have had a rough year, did not drop their heads, with strong performances all through the year. Next year will not be the same as I believe that next leadership group for Carruth will be even better and stronger, and with enough numbers behind, they will bring a win back to Carruth.

Finally I would like to give a big thank you to all the Prefects of 2018, Cory Thomas, Gabriel Freed, Milton Leef, Nathan Edwards and Taylor Gordon. Although not everyone has made it until the end, Carruth owes you all a special thanks for everything you have done here since the day you all started. You have all been an incredible team of prefects, and have been supportive to all throughout the year and I am proud to call this group of both prefects and Yr13s my brothers. I believe the prefects have had the biggest influence on the boys here at Carruth, and to the next group of Yr13s, I wish you luck! Always be a step above the year before and never settle. To my year, good luck for the rest of your lives, and I'm sure we'll all see each other again in the near future.

To those of you returning, I also wish you luck on your endeavors both in life and here at Carruth, Go hard keep and build on the traditions and spirit here at Carruth, and keep our brotherhood alive and strong. Represent Carruth well, make the most of your opportunities and show everyone what it means to be a Carruthian.

Leon Harris
Head Boarder