

Letter to Mount Barker High School from Rory's School Lunches...

In 2019 we spent a large amount of infrastructure working on innovation and control, as well as feedback from our communities. Although our menu is 100% compliant, in most schools we do sell some negotiated outside of the guidelines items. This year we have introduced a more extensive snack menu filled with an abundance of green treats which can be pre ordered, but most importantly these healthier options will be replacing our across the counter confectionery lines. We are really hoping this change will be embraced by each of our schools, but most importantly supported by the school community.

We are running extremely far behind with this menu as one of the expectations is for us to lock in pricing on a yearly basis. Unfortunately last year with the spread of the swine flu and the country in a drought position, no manufacturer was willing to quote the first quarter (2020) pricing until just prior to Christmas, and unlike normal years where we are able to lock in yearly pricing with our suppliers, this year for the above reasons they are only able to guarantee the first quarter of the year.

On top of an already unknown situation, the country has now been devastated with bush fires, with countless cattle and farms lost in the process. Apart from the devastating impact on affected communities, Australia will shortly see through the food sector large price increases and stock shortages.

I have spent some time with Virginia fruit and veg suppliers to talk about the impact on them, thinking that at least we may have some solidarity in the local veg market. Unfortunately a lot of the growers source seedlings from interstate nurseries that have been wiped out, and are concerned about whether they will be able to continue a constant supply.

All we can do moving forward is our best, and work with what outcomes arise. If products skyrocket or become out of supply, we will need the flexibility to work through this with your community. We understand the importance of communication within schools and will ensure any problems are clearly communicated as they arise or are foreseen to arise.

I am extremely thankful for all your support and look forward to an amazing 2020. The food evolution over our time has been extensive, and we are excited to once again raise the bar in providing healthy solutions to students, and more comprehensive canteen management service to the school.

Kind Regards,

Rory Hope
Managing Director