

Queen's News

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Kia ora, Greetings and Farewell

It is really sad that this is my last newsletter to all of the wonderful and caring Queen's girls and community. I have really enjoyed my time here at Queen's and in Dunedin. I will miss every one of you, but I look forward to hearing of your future achievements with pride.

It has been a very busy last couple of weeks at school with all the camps and activities going on. Watching the movies of the camps just reinforces the value of extra curriculum activities and how our young students of today need these experiences.

As most of the fantastic activities around us become out of reach financially for a lot of families, it is important that we as educators make sure that these camps and activities remain viable.

Thank you all again and remember as I will; 'Once a Queen's girl, always a Queen's girl'.

Nga mihi and have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Di Carter
Principal



AQUATICS MORNING

Two weeks ago we had another very successful Aquatics morning for all our Year 9 and 10 students. Assessing basic water skills was needed for camp purposes so the girls rotated around five different stations, including novelty relays. The last half hour was spent slipping, sliding and laughing as they tried to master the inflatable.



It was great to see a number of swimmers participate in the competitive swimming races. Congratulations to Molly Stephenson, senior champion, and Sanduni Udamulla, runner up. Top juniors were Katie Hawkins and Lily Kitto-Thomas with Devon Wilson close behind them in points.



YEAR 10 ALEXANDRA CAMP



The students who went on the Alexandra camp had a fun week doing a range of activities. These included challenging themselves on a high ropes course, cooking themselves their own lunch over camping stoves, a 24km bike ride along the rail trail and riverside track between Clyde and Alex, plus biscuit rides on Lake Dunstan.

Ms Cebulla-Elder, Mrs Rogers and Miss Earland thoroughly enjoyed taking this group of students away for the week. Everyone put in 100% effort towards the various activities and they worked incredibly well together as a group, supporting each other and displaying leadership skills which verify that these girls are ready to be seniors in 2017.



YEAR 10 IE/CREATIVE CAMP



The 'Inspirational Experience and Creative' camp was based in Dunedin for the week. We had a great time being tourists in our own city! The first day started off with a splash – we did the Dunedin Street Art tour (self-guided) and explored some of the beautiful artworks. This was to inspire us to create our own mural at the end of the week. After this we went to the SPCA in Opoho and socialised with the cats and dogs there. Our afternoon was spent at the Otago Museum where we went to the Planetarium and learnt about the constellations in our night sky, and then did a project on sustainability. The second day saw us go out to Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua. We got to catch a boat over, and many people had their first ride on a boat. We were guided around the island by Phil, the keeper there, and learnt a lot about the history of the island. We even got to try 'NZ spinach', which was salty but delicious.



Our third day started with a walk from Woodhaugh to the Ross Creek Reservoir. We were amazed by the beauty there and also got to see the sun and bask in its warmth by the water. Mrs Bishop-Cherry had her dogs join us for the morning and one of them greatly enjoyed

swimming there and then shaking over the girls! While there, we licked some elderflower bushels and that afternoon we returned to school to make our own Elderflower Cordial – including a stevia version – and we had a Masterchef competition to create a meal for 4 for only \$5. Some enterprising groups raided the school gardens for fresh veges and herbs to be added to the meals.

Our final day started with bottling our cordial which had been soaking overnight. We then had half the group plan our mural that was inspired by the street art on Tuesday, and the rest of the group helped out in the school gardens. We swapped just before lunch, and then we had a big pizza lunch – gardening sure is tiring work! The afternoon saw us doing some tidying up around the garden and finishing touches on the mural, which is just about ready for putting up. The final thing we did for the week was all get an ice-cream, well-deserved on a hot day after accomplishing so much!



YEAR 10 WANAKA CAMP

On Monday we travelled up to Wanaka; on the way we received the surprise of going to Goldfields Mining, where we went gold panning. We also learned the history of the gold rush in New Zealand. On Tuesday we went on a hike up to Mount Aspiring hut. Despite the strong winds, to the point of nearly being blown away, and the mud we had to slush through, we got to the top with smiling faces and a positive attitude.

Wednesday morning we woke to the thrill of going to Clip 'n' Climb and for some of us facing our fear of heights but having a great time in the end. That same afternoon some of us found the rooms very puzzling and got lost in the illusions at Puzzling World. Thursday morning we had the excitement of a sleep in until eight o'clock and going paddle boarding with the help of our instructor Taylor around the Wanaka Lake, which some of us found easier than others. Overall the Wanaka camp for 2016 was a great success and a big thank you to Ms Palmer and Ms Ellis for coming on camp with us and putting up with us for a week. Also the wonderful parents who paid for the camp and all the great girls that I got to spend a great week with.

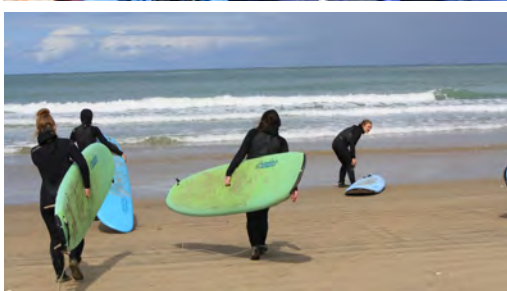
By Meegan Taylor



YEAR 10 CAITLINS CAMP

Our camp started off by checking out the awesome sights the Catlins has to offer: Nugget Point, Papatowai and McLeans Falls. After a long road trip we made it to Porpoise Bay and settled into our first class beachfront accommodation.

The girls had such an epic time surfing and all had success with standing up and riding some waves thanks to the awesome coach we had for two days. For the majority of the girls it was their first time ever surfing and I'm sure they are going to keep practicing this summer. We all learnt some new dance moves and new card games thanks to Mrs Manning. An amazing group of girls made this camp so awesome and one we will never forget!



YEAR 9 ACTIVITY WEEK

While Year 10 students had their annual camps last week, Year 9 students were involved in an activity week here at school. The week included using artistic talent to create a scene which could be filmed to make a short film, wearable arts challenge, a day at St Clair



beach and a number of other drama and food challenges. The girls gave their all to each activity and the teachers commented on the enthusiasm and energy that they put into each activity; well done girls!

STAFF FAREWELLS

It is very sad that we farewell a number of staff this week. We say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Debbie Vercoe, Ms Jessica Hayden and Mr Jeremy White who have been with us for part of 2016 in the English and Science departments. Mrs Lesley Taylor also leaves us at the end of this year after working in the English department.



Languages teacher Ms Heike Cebulla-Elder also leaves Queen's after 15 years. Ms Cebulla-Elder has worked in the Humanities and Languages departments and has committed herself to extending and up-skilling her language teaching abilities wherever possible. Her passion for Languages, teaching and the Envirogroup will be greatly missed. Ms Cebulla-Elder is heading back overseas next year and we wish her and her family all the best for her future endeavours.

We also farewell our Principal, Mrs Di Carter, who is returning to the North Island. Mrs Carter has been at Queen's for two years and we wish her all the best for her future plans.



- Dec 9** Last day of school for juniors
Junior reports posted home
- Jan 27** Senior Course confirmation day
- Jan 30 - 31** Year 9 and 13 students begin
- Feb 1** First full school day for all Students
- Feb 6** Waitangi Day
- Feb 15** Athletics Sports Day
- Feb 23** Year 9 Parent Evening
- Feb 27** Walk n Wheel Week
- Mar 6 - 9** Year 9 Camp - Berwick

TERM DATES 2017

- Term 1:** 30th Jan - 13th April
- Term 2:** 1st May – 7th July
- Term 3:** 24th July – 29th Sept
- Term 4:** 16th Oct – 8th Dec

ARMISTICE DAY

Five of our Year 10 students were fortunate enough to commemorate Armistice Day at the cenotaph in the Queens Gardens. We listened to a very evocative speech by a student from St. Hilda's, and were surrounded by veterans who spanned generations. Particularly exciting for Makayla, our Sea Cadet, was the fact that we stood next to several naval officers in full regalia. It was a reflective occasion, and the rainy weather mirrored this, as it dampened the sounds of the city during our moment of silence. Lest we forget.

