

# Years 7 and 8 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • 2017



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*Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau*

The girls of the Intermediate Department have made a really positive start to the year. The Year 8s continue to be invaluable as support buddies to the new girls and are to be congratulated on their efforts to share the Department and school's many systems, expectations and routines. Strong friendships have developed and the vast majority of girls have settled very well into the Woodford House family.

So far this year, the girls have enjoyed a myriad of exciting activities including our Year 7/8 EOTC Day, swimming sports, athletics, a trip to Napier, kapa haka festival and the Woodford House social. It has been wonderful to see our girls fully embracing the opportunity to contribute to all four cornerstones of the school.

This biannual newsletter is student driven and outlines some of the highlights and activities the girls have been involved in. All girls are encouraged to submit texts for publishing as it gives them the opportunity to share experiences from a personal perspective. I hope you enjoy reading the girls' contributions.

*Hayley Dustin  
Head of Intermediate*



Woodford House

# Term 1 Highlights



An Augmented reality app called Aurasma has been used to embed two videos into this newsletter. Look for the purple symbol on the photos and enjoy the video!

## Group writing:

Ella Simmons, Grace Haliburton, Scarlett Miller and Meghan Wuisan.

## Social

The Social was marvellous. We all dressed up into our dresses, and we danced for ages with all the people from other schools. We all had fun with old and new friends, and the Year 13s were amazing DJs.



## EOTC Day

EOTC day was incredible. We put up tents blind-folded, made rafts, and slid down a massive waterslide on a hill. Everybody in the Intermediate Department had so much fun. We especially enjoyed orienteering because we had to work really hard as a group to complete all of the tasks. This was a great opportunity to get better at collaborating. Overall, it was a fantastic day! We all enjoyed it.

## Lunch time games

At lunch time on Friday the 17 March, the Prefects set up a set of races for the Year 7/8s. We had a sack race and an egg throwing competition. All the Houses competed against each other and we all had heaps of fun. It was a great chance to get to know the Prefects, and we hope we can do it again during the rest of the year.

## Napier Trip

Our trip to Napier was wonderful. We went to the Aquarium, and learnt all about fish and how earthquakes affect marine life. We also visited to the museum where we learnt about the Napier earthquake. It was a great learning experience for all of us.



## EOTC Day

One of my highlights of the Term so far has been the Year 7 and 8 EOTC Day. It was really fun because we got to complete many team building challenges around the Woodford House campus, such as pitching a tent blind-folded, and building a raft and paddling it across the pool in a group of two. It was a day filled with opportunities and good learning experiences. We created more and more friendship bonds. The day was incredible.



To begin the day in the Intermediate Department we had an orientation task around school. Once everyone finally found their way to the meeting point, we did a few challenges including an egg throwing challenge. We had to throw an egg from one end of the field to the other and back without dropping it! This really needed team work to succeed. We also had a ring tossing competition, had to solve riddles and did a hilarious waddling task with a ball between our legs.

In the afternoon, we had two fun activities planned. The first was a raft building challenge. We were split into two teams and each team had 10 minutes to build a raft. After 10 minutes we had to race back and forth across the pool in pairs. Each team cheered loudly encouraging the people on the raft.

Finally, there was a long water slide down the hill by the AstroTurf. This was really exciting! The day was certainly one to remember. Overall it was an extremely enjoyable, fun-filled day for the whole Intermediate Department.

Amy Bagley

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## Napier Trip

In the Intermediate Department we have been very busy during Term 1. There have been so many opportunities and learning experiences. One of my favourite highlights has been going on a trip to Napier. We were all buzzing about going on our first trip of the year.

First we got split into two different groups. Our group went to the Museum and we learnt about the Napier earthquake. We got to watch a slide show and took a quiz. We even watched a video of a lady who had been through the Napier Earthquake telling us all about how she felt.

Then we met up at the Sound Shell and had delicious scones and then our group headed to the Aquarium. The Aquarium was my favourite part of the trip. We got to go on a tour and take amazing photos. We got up close to incredible sea creatures and had a blast. The little blue penguins were my favourite. We learnt about what happens to marine life when disaster strikes, which was very interesting. We heard all about how disasters like tsunamis, landslides, earthquakes and floods are killing coral reefs and disturbing marine ecosystems.

Overall everyone learnt a great deal and had fun with their friends.

Nina Holden



## A New Year, A New Challenge

2016 went really fast and the New Year is here! I love to try new things especially if it is music. This story is about my first big challenge of 2017.

I went to House Music practice on Monday after school. Suddenly the auditions started. "Who wants to sing a solo for House Music?"

I love to sing. I put my hand up without thinking. There were about 10 people who wanted to do a solo including me. I could feel my face turn red as fire.

Finally it was my turn to audition. I started singing. I could feel everyone watching me. As I finished everyone started to clap. I was very grateful. After about two weeks I heard that I had got the solo! I'm a bit nervous about it but I am very excited too.

I think I learnt a really important thing from this audition. When you try something new it is very scary. Your heart can get injured but if you don't try you could lose. If you do try you could win.

I am so excited about House Music I hope people enjoy it.

Miharu Nagata



## A Great Start to Year 8

The most exciting thing so far this year would have to be coming back to school and seeing my friends! Most of them I hadn't seen in six weeks! So coming up that drive I had butterflies squirming in my stomach.

As I walked up the stairs to the Intermediate Department I saw dozens of glittering smiles that reminded me of how much I had missed being at Woodford House in the holidays. Catching up was the best. Intriguing stories of the holidays came bursting out of girls' mouths like a fizzed up Fanta. I was glad to be back.

This is my second year at Woodford House and my second year here in the Intermediate Department. I love being a part of this big family and I have made so many friendships that I know will last through school and the rest of my life! Everyone is so supportive, kind and especially selfless.

The way I would describe the Intermediate Department would be as an amusement park ride - it is incredible but you need to hold on tight and be brave. You will make friends very quickly as go through exciting experiences together. The only downside is that the ride will be over before you know it!

Last year sped by and it looks like this year is going to do the same. Already we have had Swimming Sports, EOTC day, a Napier trip and all the new girls coming into school on Open Day.

I can't wait for the rest of this year and all the new adventures we will go on together.

Imogen Lovell



## My New School

**It has been an incredible start of the year for me starting a new school as a weekly boarder in the Intermediate Department at Woodford House. Meeting new friends and forming lasting friendships has been one of the highlights of my year so far.**

A major highlight so far has been getting to know my Term 1 roommate, Johannah Paterson. Johannah is one of the best roommates I could have ever imagined; she always makes me laugh and always has a positive attitude.

In the day school I have a great “Big Sister” who looks after me if there is anything I need help with. She is always there for me. The teachers at Woodford House have also been very encouraging and always want to help me with my learning.

I must admit that managing myself has been a challenge - getting to class on time with no bells, making sure I have all my gear before I leave the Boarding House in the mornings, and adjusting to a six day timetable has challenged me. I am making great improvements though.

My learning experience at Woodford House so far in 2017 has been a little different from my old school as I was one of the seniors at my old school and now I am one of the youngest girls in the school. There are also a few subjects, which are new for me this year, like Science, Food Tech and Social Studies. I am really enjoying these new subjects especially Food Tech where we are learning different cooking techniques.

I love the opportunity to participate in lots of sport before and after school. I am still managing to have all my prep done on time and having an incredible time with my friends. I know I am going to really enjoy the rest of my year.

*Alex Cave*



## Boarding

**This year I am a Year 8 Weekly Boarder in the Morea Boarding House. In Morea we do heaps of enjoyable activities after school and even before bed time. Every week we can go to the library to Makerspace. This helps us to think and be creative. In Summer, we can go to the pool for a refreshing swim.**

The seniors often come over and play games with us and set games up for us. I enjoy going down to the trampolines after school with my friends and trying to attempt a flip. I love boarding and have made lots of friendships in the boarding house.

Ms McAulay, our matron, helps us with lots of skills like:

- Managing self
- Being tidy
- Caring for one another

I am glad to be boarding and I can't wait for the rest of the year.

*Paris McClelland*

# Social Science Learning

**At the start of the term, we started to look into a very incredible study about natural disasters. It is a very interesting topic, learning about what natural disasters people go through and how they live in the conditions and then find a way to build back their cities.**

I think it is so amazing how natural disasters link to things that affect our everyday lives. Like, for example, the recent Auckland floods. People had to boil their water for three minutes before they could even have a glass of water. The flooding has destroyed wild life and wrecked the bush, and all this muck ends up in the sea. And when that's all in the sea it becomes unsafe to swim in and pollutes beaches and can harm sea life.

It is an amazing opportunity to learn about what happens in New Zealand and on the other side of the world. Natural disasters in other parts of the world seem very bad. I feel very lucky to be in a safe country with few natural disasters. I am glad we have helpful communities here in New Zealand.

*Georgiana Absolon*

## Food Tech

**I had just been doing serverly in the dining room and I was excited about going to my favourite place at school -the Tech room! I put an apron over my head, washed my hands thoroughly and waited anxiously at my cooking unit, ready to go!**

Ms Knight told us that we were making sushi (which I adore). We quickly got our all ingredients and equipment and organised them on our unit. We read our recipe carefully and realised that before we placed the rice on the seaweed we had to wet our hands so the rice didn't stick to us. We piled the chicken, cucumber and carrot on the rice and I rolled the wooden mat to make the sushi. Our sushi turned out great and tasted delicious!

I look forward to Tech every week. I think Tech at Woodford House is a great learning experience. It is very useful for when we need to cook for ourselves. When I go to university I will look back in my Tech books and make the delicious things. I love having Tech at Woodford House!

*Georgia Miller*



## The Sea

White sand scattered out across the shore  
Corals sprouting upon the ocean floor

Friendly seals and dolphins adore to play  
I could watch them all day, I hope they stay

The wind and the fragrance of the ocean breeze  
I love the lovely fresh scent of the sea

When the sun is setting and it starts to get cold  
Remember this moment for it is pure gold

*Leilani Peakman*



## Te Matatini - Kapa Haka Festival

Our trip to Te Matatini started with two vans of very excited girls heading to Hastings Sports Park. Our driver, Mrs MacKenzie, was telling us all about how all hotels were booked because people came from far away just to come to this special event. Te Matatini is one of the biggest kapa haka festivals in the world. Everyone was very excited to be part of the audience at this special occasion.



When we got to the sports park the place was packed with hundreds of people. There was already one kapa haka group on the stage performing. They were singing a beautiful song. Most songs that were sung at this festival were popular Māori songs or prayers. Each group performed for 20 minutes.

I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend this festival and loved the singing, dancing and performances.

*Leilani Peakman*

## The Fire



A cold breeze slithered through an old wooden door, teasing a blazing amber fire lit on an aged stone fireplace. It was surrounded by cream coloured walls, with black curtains that draped low covering small windows. Across the room from the fire, beds were laid with cotton duvets, covering sleeping people, twitching in their slumber. Faint light was filtered through the curtains, as the moon shone over the small house.

Leaves rustled on tall trees in the cool wind outside. The woods around the house felt awake, yet there were no animal sounds heard, and an eerie silence stalked through the trees. Then suddenly without warning, a flame was lit. The spark was thrown over the dry grass and the ground burst aflame. A shadow fled into the darkness, as the fire spat and crackled, it grew and began scorching everything it touched. Wild flowers were consumed by the whirlwind of fury. The fire spread through the forest, leaving nothing but black, sooty ash.

As the sun crawled over the horizon, the family resting peacefully were woken by neighbours who had run to them, calling police and every other emergency numbers they knew. The fire that had once burned bright warm flames had burnt out in the cold fireplace.

Stumbling as they grabbed belongings, the family was evacuated to safety. Over the black horizon, a smog cloud grew over a great, scarlet fire. Small planes soared high, blasting foamy water over the hills, and helicopters carried groups of people to safety.

*Scarlett Miller*

## Swimming Sports 2017

**BANG!** The gun fired and the first race was off. It was Woodford House's 2017 Swimming Sports and everyone was pumped. I was competing in seven finals and was nearly shaking with nerves. My friends and I were cheering along with our house and watching the swimmers as they zoomed to the other end of the pool in just seconds. I couldn't wait to get in and start swimming!

Suddenly, it was time for my first race, the 50-metre freestyle race. I was up against some pretty amazing swimmers so I was determined to try my best. Butterflies were swarming around in my stomach as I anxiously waiting to be called up. Before I knew it, I was on the side of the pool waiting for the gun. **BANG!** I dived into the water and glided up to the surface, I wouldn't allow myself to slow down as I turned and swam back. I knew without looking that Martine was close, maybe even right next to me. I kicked as hard as I could and slapped my hand on the wall. My eyes darted up and everyone was cheering! I had won my race!

I spent most of my afternoon cheering, swimming, and chatting. By the time prize giving rolled around, I was exhausted. My friends and I walked down to the pool and sat down on the poolside. I listened to a never ending list of names until I heard the words: 'Amelia Barrett'. Walking up to the trophy table seemed like the longest 2 minutes of my life. My name was printed onto three certificates that got handed to me with congratulations. I couldn't believe I had won the 50m freestyle race, the 25m freestyle race, and got runner up Year 7/8 Champion! This year's swimming sports was a blast and I couldn't wait until next year.

Amelia Barret



## Iona vs Woodford Swimming Sports

**The gun went off. Splash!** The intense nervousness was broken and one of my favourite highlights in Term 1, the Woodford vs Iona Swimming Sports, had started. It was held at Woodford House and I was competing in it. It was incredible.

I was competing in two events, the 25m breast stroke and a group event. When I wasn't competing I was cheering enthusiastically for Woodford House and having so much enjoyment. It was also fabulous to see the Intermediate Department and some other classes that came down and supported us.

When it was my turn to race I was really nervous because there were some strong athletic people in my race. I didn't do as well as I wanted to do but at least I gave it my all. Overall I had a fantastic day but it was a bit disappointing that Iona came first and Woodford House came 2nd. Hopefully we will beat them next year.

Amy Kean



## Dancing

**Every Tuesday a huge group of energetic girls pile into the new dance studio in the Dame Kate Harcourt Performing Arts Centre.**

Excitedly, we start warming up - lunging, jumping, running and stretching. We must look intriguing to onlookers as we thrust our legs and arms every which way. We must look like we are octopuses trying to frantically slip away from a hungry fisherman's cold grasp.

After the warm up we start concentrating on our routines. At the moment we are learning lots of different dances, but we will soon be focusing on one dance which we will be performing at the end of the term. Our dance teacher is a really good mentor and we have all learned a lot from having weekly classes with her.

Dance is great exercise and it is a great way to meet new people from other year groups!

*Rosa MacKenzie*

## Woodford House Social

**Last term Woodford House hosted the Year 7/8 Term 1 Social. Lindisfarne, Iona, Hereworth and Woodford House students attended.**

The social was so much fun because of the loud music and the dancing. The best part was having the Year 13s helping out. They led the dances and encouraged everyone to have fun. After about two hours of non-stop dancing, the music suddenly stopped and everyone's faces went sad... The social was over.

*Rosa Lowry*



## Summer Hockey

**Nervously, I shuffled out of the bus. I flung my hockey bag over my shoulder and hurried towards the turf. I fumbled with my mouth guard as my nerves took hold of me. Clutching my stick I trudged toward the opposing team. I found my position and stood, ready and waiting for the whistle, eager, yet nervous to play. A piercing noise rung in my ears. The match had begun!**

My heart was pounding like a drum as I began to run towards the ball. I drove my stick down hard against the ball. Quickly, I passed the ball to my teammate. Skilfully, she dodged rival players. She weaved side to side through the opposition. Next thing we knew she had fiercely flung the ball into the goal. Score! Happy cheers spread through our team as we took up our positions to restart the game.

We played hard as a team and managed to keep the score to a 1 – nil win! I am looking forward to next week's game.

*Grace Haliburton*

# Woodford Equestrian Academy

**This year Woodford House has started an Equestrian Academy, which I am really happy to participate in. After a long day full to the brim of school work, I am always excited to go to the Equestrian Academy. Energetically, I bound into the van. Travelling to get there is nearly unbearable. First I eat my afternoon tea, then I patiently wait to arrive at our destination.**

On arrival, I quickly hop out of the van, grab my halter, and head off to go catch my pony, Tuki. I then, discuss what I want to do for the day, with Amy (the instructor) and get down to it. When we are at the Equestrian Academy, we get to do a wide range of horse involved things, such as jumping practice, jumping lessons, flat practices, dressage lessons, track (working the horses around the outside of the paddocks), sweeping the stables and feeding out.

In the Equestrian Academy, we receive great coaching to improve our riding. The instructors are very patient, and ensure that we enjoy ourselves at the same time. I have improved immensely since starting this incredible academy. I think everyone who participates in it has improved too. I have also made a lot of new friends in the academy, and I'm sure that as more people join, more friends will be made.

In conclusion, Woodford Equestrian is an amazing opportunity which I would recommend to all horse lovers. It teaches you great managing self-skills (and I know Ms Dustin would like that!). So if you are thinking about joining, I would definitely advise giving it a go!

Bella Ladbrook





## Horse of the Year (HOY)

Midway through Term 1, I was lucky enough to compete in Horse of the Year. Throughout the whole Term I had been preparing by going to lots of shows. This was my first year competing in the Show Jumping and Show Hunter categories, so I was very nervous. I was lucky enough to have Woodford House there to support me. It was great to know all my fellow Woodford House equestrian members were behind me, wishing me well. Woodford House also had a tent set up at HOY.



I visited the tent and it looked awesome. Woodford House had an amazing competition, all you had to do was design your own rosette and you would get a yummy little horse ginger bread and you would be in for an amazing opportunity to win a very intriguing prize - an incredible looking basket of horse products. Unfortunately I didn't have the time to go and design a rosette. I wished I had.

Horse of the Year was a very challenging show and it was extremely tricky to win a ribbon. The rain didn't help at all but the younger kids had lots of fun sliding around in the mud and having mud fights in the practice arenas. A lot of the classes had to be postponed or cancelled, which was very disappointing. All of the main classes were still on but the horses and ponies didn't like jumping in the bog.

I still had a very enjoyable time at HOY. Two of my proudest moments were when I got a 5th ribbon on Harley Farley and did my second ever 1m jumping on my own pony, Ash. I can't wait for next year's Horse Of the Year!.

*Milly Waldin*

## Woodford Equestrian

**Woodford Equestrian is the main reason I came to Woodford House. I am a Year 7 Full Boarder and I have brought my pony, Monty, down from Gisborne with me.**

This year, for the first time ever, Woodford House has an equestrian programme where girls can go to ride after school. I love it. Monty has settled in well with the other horses. It took him a while to settle in but now we have been here for a while it's been getting better.

At Woodford Equestrian we have a lesson arena and a training area. I go out to horse riding every day except for Tuesdays and Sundays. (Sometimes I go out on these days too). Woodford Equestrian is really fun. It's also really chilled out and really easy to get out there and back. The place we go and ride at is only about 5 minutes in the van. At Woodford Equestrian we have our own schedule so we are always prepared for what we're doing that day.

I am so glad I came to Woodford House because Woodford Equestrian has helped me with my riding so far and my pony is only a few minutes away!

*Jesse McCann*

## EPRO8 Challenge

I took a deep breath, following the engineer to the explanation stand. It was the 1st of March 2017 and I had been chosen to represent Woodford House in the Epro8 challenge.

Eight girls from the Intermediate Department had been given the opportunity to take part in this once in a life time learning experience. For me this was just another way to show that I was capable of taking up a challenge and enjoying the experience as well. No words could explain how nervous I was on that day.

My team of four scurried over to the Wonderful Woodford stand. Our instructions were clear; "Choose one of the four activities in your book and complete it in two and a half hours."

Amelia B, Harriet M and Imogen L and I flicked through the pages until we found a section that read: Repair a bridge." We decided to challenge ourselves and go for the hardest one because it was worth the most points. Our team had to make a 2-metre wide and 1-metre high bridge that could carry a four wheeled vehicle (made by us) on it. We quickly got started and about an hour later, other schools' buzzers started going off, signalling that some creations were already ready to be shown. "It's okay!" I called out, "we still have plenty of time! Remember if we finish our task correctly we will probably win and go into the finals."

We all worked extremely well together... until we realised that we had broken one of the main rules. "You must not have anything holding your bridge up in the water." Hesitantly, I walked to the beam that held our hopes up. We all decided to take away the beam and hoped the bridge would hold up anyway. Unfortunately this totally wrecked our masterpiece. Devastatingly, we watched as other teams points kept ringing up on the board while Wonderful Woodford had none. On a more positive note, we accomplished one of our tasks (creating a car to drive over the bridge).

Our Wonderful Woodford team ended up coming last but the other Woodford House team came 4th. Overall I had an extremely great time. I am super grateful for this opportunity and I would definitely do this again if I had the chance. We all had an extremely jolly time and that is all that really matters in the end.

*Lily Andrews*



## Woodford House

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