

# NETHERCLIFT NEWS

Here's an update on what's been happening in the Netherclift household this year...

## Changes at Hogwarts Hilton

This year there have been big changes outside at Hogwarts Hilton. We have had some landscaping done which involved the removal of mountains of sand, the construction of a wooden retaining wall and the creation of a practical concrete pad at the side of the 'house'. It's great to have more usable space outside and Ben is very pleased to have a larger area at the front to practise his shooting skills!



Dave has also made good use of the tin shed that used to be on the front lawn - he has turned it into a 'waka locker'! Now we don't have to haul the kayak in and out of the house. Nina is looking forward to finally finishing the painting inside, which has been an ongoing task throughout this year. After failing miserably at meeting our previous target date of Easter, our new target for completion is the end of the summer holidays!



We had our first fire on the beach last summer. We had to get permission from the council to do so because of the fire risk. It was well worth the effort!

## College Boy!

Sam's first year at Wellington College has gone really well for him. He joined the ukulele group and the all comers choir and has performed at various events during the year. He is thrilled to have been selected to go on a student exchange trip to Japan next October. This will be a great experience for him and at the same time a challenge for us as we need to fund not only this trip but other trips next year too!



This photo was taken as he was leaving the house on his first day at college. He looks very smart in his new uniform - with plenty of room for growth!

Ben has just come back from a school tramping trip to the Abel Tasman. He can't wait to finish primary school and move on to college, as he has heard so much from Sam. He is counting down the days to the end of term!

## Japanese Visitor

In September we hosted a Japanese student for a couple of weeks. Communication was interesting as his English was quite limited and our Japanese was even more so (with the exception of Sam). Thank goodness for 'Google translate'! We had a good time and we enjoyed his company. Hopefully, he enjoyed ours too!



This is a photo outside the Weta workshop. Spot the troll!

## Out and About

In January we went tramping around the Mt Holdsworth area. As each year goes by we realise how much fitter the boys are getting compared to their parents!



In October we visited Sally and her family. We had a lovely time enjoying life on the farm. Thank you Sally and Malcolm for your hospitality!



## Sports News

Ben has had another successful year of football despite sustaining several injuries (not all during football). Here is a photo taken while waiting in A&E after a knee injury during a match.



Despite being on crutches twice and having his arm in a cast during the year, Ben has been selected for the

Wellington Federation Talent Centre (along with some of his Miramar team mates). He is also excited to be chosen to go to Sydney next July with the FTC team. His current training schedule is three times a week (which will no doubt increase when the football season kicks in next March!). Amazingly on Friday mornings he can manage to get up in time for a 6.30am training session but on every other day of the week, Nina has to practically drag him out of bed!

Sam continues to do gymnastics each week and is still a member of the sea scouts. Here he is coxing a rowing crew in a recent regatta.

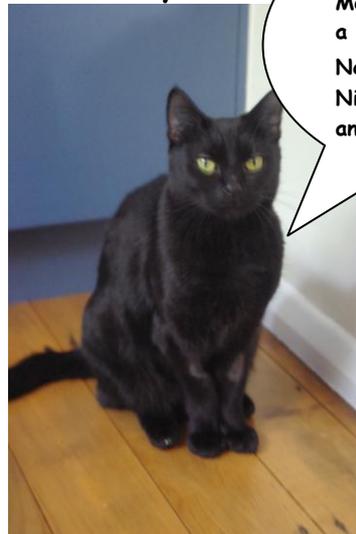


## Looking forward

Nina's old university friend Suzy, and her family will be joining us at Christmastime. They are coming over here on holiday for a few weeks, travelling around and enjoying the many attractions that New Zealand has to offer! We are also looking forward to celebrating Dave's 50<sup>th</sup> on December 28<sup>th</sup> at Hogwarts Hilton. It will be great to catch up with a few 'old faces' again and we shall be keeping our fingers crossed for decent weather.

Looking further forward, we are planning to visit England next Christmas and New Year and we hope to be able to fit in a short visit to some of Nina's family in Western Ukraine. The situation is still tricky over there and our thoughts are with family who have been affected by the political situation in one way or another.

## And finally...



We wish you all a Very Merry Christmose and a Happy and Healthy New Year!  
Nina, Dave, Sam, Ben and Cocoa. xx