

Dispatch from the evening of Thursday, March 8th

Matthew Hill, 30 March 2018.

On Thursday March 8th, we spent the day in New Plymouth. We had driven there from Findlay Jacks in Taupo and had intended to stop at the Cheal wells/oilfield. Unfortunately, there were some miscommunications along the way and we ended up skipping the brief stop. Upon arrival at the Sunflower Lodge, the group unpacked and prepared to go to dinner. When we got into town, we walked around and along the water. Connor and I decided to check out the water temperature and take a swim. After an extremely refreshing dip, we both filled a pocket with sand to bring home, which ended up getting both of us stopped in the airport flying home. We then got dinner with the rest of the students, leaving out wet shorts outside to dry. At some point, they were picked up by a restaurant employee and brought inside because he thought they belonged to a homeless person. Once we got our shorts back, the employee was relieved to find out they were wet from the water, and they were not actually soaked in urine.

After dinner we met back up with Dr. Elsworth and Susan to return to the Sunflower Lodge. We all decided to take over the small back yard of the lodge and Connor provided the entertainment. A few others that were staying at the lodge came out and joined us for a short while. After a little while, we were asked to bring the guitar back inside because they enforced quiet hours at the hostel. After a little longer we all decided to retire to our rooms and prepare to head back to Auckland in the morning.