



## Pacific School games Newsletter #1

*Like many 1<sup>st</sup> days of competition or a tour. The day was somewhat of a hurry up and wait day. We waited for planes, stamps in our passports, buses, credentials, photos, room keys and instructions. The team handled these well. They embraced these experiences. Some knowing and some learning it was all part of the deal when travelling. With these out of the way we are all looking to the competition ahead.*

*It seemed like ages to wait since the team was announced, until the day of departure finally arrived. The swimmers, coaches and managers descended on the airports at 5.00am in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. They looked great in their uniforms and wore them proudly.*

*Ticketing and departure chores sorted, the team were soon in their departure lounge awaiting their boarding calls. Our team departing from Auckland airport were also joined by the New Zealand track and field team heading to the Games. It made for a noisy and excitable flight. It seemed a short time till some of the iconic Sydney views, like the Opera house and Darling harbour could be seen through the broken cloud below us all.*



*Our 3 groups were then all united in Sydney. We were quickly through customs and out into the drizzle of Sydney.*

Head coach Clive Wheeler (Aka the god father) was there to welcome the other two groups. He had flown up from Wellington, and he announced that the Team captain was Mitchell Nairn of Taupo



Also the junior captains were Phoebe O'Leary and Thomas McCarthy.



Bob the bus driver was there to load our gear on, and remind us how the cricket was going. That was until we reminded him about last weeks league result.

The 3 hr drive south to Canberra was broken half way for lunch where we again ran into the track and field team that had swelled in numbers and now took up 3 buses. As you can imagine the restaurant was a sea of black, it was more like Eden park at a test than a roadside cafe on the Hume Highway.

Arriving in Canberra we went to registration and then to the AIS for our accommodation.

This will be a special place to stay, with being a very motivational environment, University type buildings with that campus feeling. Some of Australia's top athletes are here, and this week will be full of athletes from other countries and cultures.

Back for our photos where the sea of black had become an ocean, as we were then joined by the other Kiwi sports.

After dinner (which was a treat), Clive divided the team up with the particular coaches that will be looking after them. He outlined the expectations and responsibilities that go with being on a New Zealand team and wearing the silver fern.

<b>FRANK, COACH</b>	BRYDIE WHITEHEAD 14	DYLAN GARROD 14	JARED SOLOMON 14
	PHOEBE O'LEARY 14	GEORGE EGLESFIELD 14	COREY MAIN 13
	THOMAS MCCARTHY 14	GABRIELLE SHIELDS 14	
<b>OSCAR, COACH</b>	STACEY HUGHES 13	HAYLEY EDMOND 14	EMILY MCGILL 14
	JEFFREY ARONA-TUIFANA'E 14	SOPHIA BATCHELOR 14	NATASHA LLOYD 14
	JULIAN LAYTON 14	ELLIOT CRENE 14.	
<b>TAI, COACH</b>	STEFANNIE GILLESPIE 13	BIANCA BRADLEY 14.	ISAAC FOOTE 15
	JORDON QUINTAL 16	BERNADETTE REIDY 15.	EVON STOREY 14.
	THOMAS CUTLER 14		
<b>PETER, COACH</b>	MITCH NAIRN 15	TAYLOR ARMSTRONG 15	LAUREN COETZEE 15
	DANICA BURN 15	JENNA BUCHANAN 15	CHRIS DAWSON 15.

**Bed could not come early enough for most - so let the games begin.**