

We went to the animal fair! The birds and the beasts were there...



A+P SHOW WITH HB HAWK, WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER

The weather was sunny and blowy, the tamariki were excited, the parents and LAs raring to go. At 9.30, organisation of tickets was finalised and we dispersed in our small groups around the massive showgrounds.

The LAs group showed phenomenal crowd-negotiating expertise as they showed off the “walking as a school” skills they’ve been practising in town. We passed through and around exhibits on our way to the first entertainment – dog agility.

After this fun show, negotiation skills were also to the fore as the group decided “where to next?”. Everyone had their favourite choices and a small plan was worked out to incorporate them all. This meant we got to see things that we might not otherwise have chosen (motorcross, rare breeds exhibit) it was a day of expanding our horizons and learning a little about others’ interests.

Wood chopping was one of these opportunities – not everyone saw the point of it, but when chainsaws, two-man saws and axes were all employed in an exciting 7-man team relay race with South Island going against North Island and Australia, most of us saw the benefit of having patiently waited for them to set up all the wood.



We met up at 11am and 12.30pm with the rest of Hawk to eat our kai and share advice on what was cool to see and where to go next. The grassy bank we sat on gave us fabulous views of the arena with horses occasionally parading by, but more importantly, space and the perfectly-pitched slope for some rolling down the hill. Vestibular systems were well and truly exercised!

We managed to catch and contribute to a number of stories from the Court Theatre story-vending machine, practice our circus skills in a special arena full of equipment and for those interested, visit the army display truck or cuddle a greyhound or three!



Last up was the farmyard exhibit with chicks, rabbits, goats and lambs to hold and pet. We weren't the only ones keen for a cuddle though so lots of queuing, managing ourselves and working with others to make sure we all fairly got a turn.

Tired out from all the curious questioning and brimming with experiences we returned to Hawk for hometime.

Clare Marshall (relieving for Gina, HB Hawk)