



The William Colenso College

German connection.

Following are comments from former Colenso students from Germany.

ANJA FUNK

The first time I saw the New Zealand coast with the beautiful green hills I just knew that it was the right decision to come to this country. I had a great welcome from my host family. They did everything to show me all of the awesome country and made it possible for me to live the life of a New Zealander.

This included also going to school. William Colenso College is a nice school with heaps of subjects to offer. I learned how to climb on a climbing wall, how to develop a film and we even produced our own short film in the Principal's house. This would never have been possible at my school in Germany. My favourite subject was Hospitality. We always enjoyed ourselves in those lessons even if the result didn't always taste like expected. The students at WCC are also a friendly lot and I made lots of friends whom I still have contact with.

The Outdoor Education trips were another highlight at school. I challenged myself on the high ropes course, did the 'flying kiwi', climbed and swam through the narrowest cave I've ever seen and also slept a whole night in a self-made snow cave. Even though all the trips were exhausting, they were so much fun. Moreover, I was on tour with the school orchestra in Taupo and also took part in the ski trip on Mt Ruapehu.

I also made a trip to the West Coast with my New Zealand mum and travelled around the South Island with a friend in the last week of my stay. All those trips were amaaaazing!!

As you see, I was really busy during my stay. I did so many new things and saw so much that there was no time to feel homesick – not once. On the contrary, I didn't want to go back to Germany. There wasn't anything to complain about, just the fact that one term was far too little time to stay, but I had to go back to Germany to get prepared for my graduation.

However, I am sure it was not the last time I'll visit New Zealand and the great people I met. It was an unforgettable time. To put it in a nutshell, I can recommend everyone going to New Zealand and staying there for a whole year, because anything else would be too short.



LILLY ROLL-NAUMANN

I stayed in New Zealand for half a year. I will have to leave NZ soon and I am quite sad about that. Yeah, of course I am also looking forward to see my friends and my family again but I'm just not ready yet to leave New Zealand. I'm going to miss a lot about the country and the school and I'm gonna miss my host family and friends heaps! I had a great time in NZ and at Colenso. I was always trying to get the most out of everything and don't regret a thing. I had so many good times here; one highlight was definitely the Samoa Live trip!

The whole trip was an awesome experience and we all had so much fun together. I never expected to get the opportunity to visit such a dream island when I planned going to New Zealand.

I learned so much about the country and a different culture but also about the people on the trip and being part of a group. I was one of the first three Internationals ever to go on a school trip like that and I hope Colenso will continue giving Internationals the great opportunity to join.

I met gorgeous people here in New Zealand and made really good friends who I will never forget. We laughed together and we cried together and I want to thank you for being who you are.

New Zealand – I will be back!!





KIM PIESKER



I was already excited when I woke up on Friday morning because I knew today was the big day. Mirjam and I wanted to go sky diving. As someone who's afraid of heights it was quite a challenge for me to jump out of a plane that is flying at an altitude of 15,000 feet. The group was split into two – the people who were going to Taupo to go bungy jumping and Mirjam and I who went to the airport with Mr Stewart to do sky diving. I think I haven't been so nervous for a while.

But I was glad that the people were all so friendly and relaxed and that made me feel safe. When I asked my instructor, Brad, how long he had been doing sky diving he gave me a big smile and said he had done it since last week. Fortunately this turned out to be a joke and he had done about 13,000 jumps before. Anyway, Brad and I were the last ones who got on the plane and that meant we were the first ones who had to jump. I spent most of the next 20 minutes in the plane trying to breathe easily and not to look out of the window because I was afraid I wouldn't be brave enough to jump in the end. Thinking about it now I have to say that you have no choice. If you are in the plane it is too noisy anyway to tell them your doubts and it isn't you who jumps, but the instructor. But everything went really fast and they opened the door and we put our legs out. It was a weird feeling sitting there with your legs dangling 15,000 feet over the ground. But I have to say the whole thing was worth it. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had. 50 seconds of freefall are just amazing and I could see the whole north coast of the North Island. It was an adorable way to see New Zealand and I would always do it again. I'm happy I got the chance to have this experience on the Colenso International trip.



LISA PATZELT



This school trip was awesome! It wasn't boring at all, like school trips often are. We were always busy doing cool, interesting and exciting stuff. The black water rafting on the first day was super! First I was a bit scared, sitting on a rubber tube somewhere in a cave under the ground in the dark and with lots of cold water around me. But it was so much fun! It was such a great experience and I saw glow worms for the first time ever. I also enjoyed meeting all the sheep at the Agridome and having a look around the museum in Rotorua. After that we took the gondola up a hill and rode the luge. That was so much fun and the view was great.

We spent the next day at the lake. We went together on a waka (Maori canoe) and did a treasure hunt on and around the lake (kayaking and walking). After all that exercise we went to a traditional Maori ceremony and saw dancing, singing and the haka. After that we had a hangi – food cooked in the ground. It was delicious. I couldn't remember eating that much during one evening. After having four-time dessert we saw the geysers. That was very impressive! Smoke, mud and sulphide everywhere. We started the next day fast: jetboat riding in Rotorua. Spinning and sliding on the water was great fun, but after that I felt a bit sick being on solid ground again. Bungy jumping was next. All the tough ones jumped 47 metres down into a river valley. It was amazing to watch. I didn't do it, but I will now that I saw they all survived. We did so many things in only four days and experienced a lot of new things. We had great fun together and everyone enjoyed the trip.





ROCK CLIMBING – Laura Brings

On Wednesday morning we went by bus and car to Wharepapa South, Frogetts Edge where we went to Castle Rock to climb on natural rock and do some abseiling. It was really much fun. The weather was fine and everybody was motivated to do some climbs that afternoon. After we reached our camp and everything was prepared for the night everybody was just talking and laughing and having lots of fun and the atmosphere was really good and relaxed. We all got on very well and some of us really challenged ourselves by trying really hard climbs, which some of us did pretty well. There are really good climbs and different levels so that everybody got the chance to do his or her best and finished at least two climbs.

On Thursday we went to another rock, which was good too and had a few harder climbs but after lunch everyone had enough so we went back to Castle Rock. There we split into two groups - one went for abseiling and the other went for lead climbing. Both groups had much fun and did a great job so when we got back to the camp we were all quite happy but had sore hands, knees and arms.

That night we played some games, had good talks and lots of funny moments and some people just couldn't fall asleep and rather wanted to sing and entertain the other tents. Unfortunately we had to get up very early every day to have our things sorted before the schools started (we were staying at the school ground) so everybody was really tired in the morning but there was always somebody who entertained us.

The last day we had to do our assessment – the teachers (Mr. Gold and Mr. White) had to film us while we were climbing to see if we knew how to climb safely and were well prepared. I think everybody passed and in the end nobody wanted to leave.

We got back later than we planned but there was just good feedback and the way back felt like an hour (I think it was 2 or 3) full of joy, music and laughing because of funny dancers and singers in the group.

This trip was definitely one of the best trips ever with so much fun and nice people and of course good climbs and I really enjoyed it and would go again at any time.

Thanks to Mr. Gold and Mr. White for taking us there and to the group for such a good time.



GRETA QUINKE

I'm Greta and I'm from Germany. My whole experience so far has been awesome. I'm quite busy at the moment because our school production is coming up soon and I'm going to be in it. We have been practicing almost every day and the people I'm surrounded by at the production are simply awesome.

I didn't know that things like a school production could help me so much with making new friends but it definitely did. We are having so much fun together and now I just can't believe that I have only around 3 weeks left in this beautiful country.

I know that it's going to be so hard for me to leave and go back to Germany. Sometimes I can't even imagine that soon I will be back home and I also don't want to imagine it. I feel like I don't want to leave anymore, especially because I've made so many lovely friends here in New Zealand. I'm wishing that one time I will see all of those amazing people again.

Overall, this experience has been one of the best things in my life and it has taught me so much. Thanks for everything!





LOUISE DAMOSER

After the exams started, Robin and Jody organised a programme for the internationals with different activities we would do in the four weeks until school is officially over.

At the 10th of November it started with the sports and fun day at Taradale Highschool. We took the bus from school and left in the morning to meet the other internationals from Napier high schools to spend the day with them. After a little warm-up we were disposed in 3 groups. My group with most of the Colenso internationals started with one hour Archery. It was great fun, especially for those of us who never did it before. One hour for each activity is quite long, so we had enough time to enjoy archery, softcrosse and bumper ball where you play football in big airfilled balls. For lunch we had a big burger-barbie and cake for dessert. We all enjoyed the day and made some new friendships.



Next day, Wednesday, we met at the Faraday Centre in Napier town. It is a museum for technology from the 19th century. It was really interesting to see how telephones or old gaming machines worked. It was quite hard to build up the bridge da Vinci created, or to play a piano without hands, just with the feet-pedals. After that we had a bit of freetime in town and straight after we went to the Art Deco centre and had a tour through town. Since this tour I realised how much the earthquake in 1931 actually destroyed. Napier can be proud to build up everything again and be one of the only cities in the world to have the Art Deco style from the 1930's.



With friends at Hobbiton.

The last activity in this week was our trip to Cape Kidnappers. We made a tractor safari and even drove through the ocean at some points. Our guide told us a lot about the cliff structure and how the earthquake changed the height of the mountains. From the stop at lunchtime we could walk up to a viewing point where a colony of seabirds were, to take some pictures and enjoy the view. On our way back we saw a seal and another few seabirds which are breeding in this time. Although it rained at the end and was quite cold, we had a great time and now have some nice pictures.

Now we have a long four days weekend and after that we will depart from William Colenso for the Mahia Camp.



CAPE KIDNAPPERS: That's me in the blue jacket in the centre.