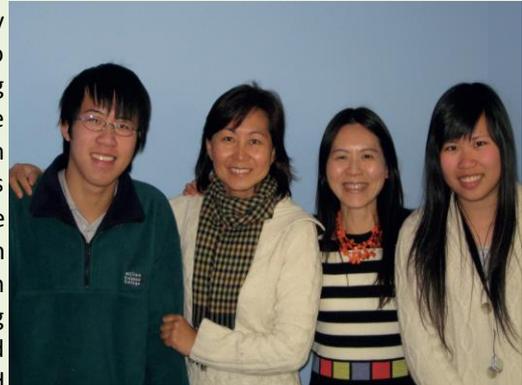




# The William Colenso College Vietnam connection

## A VERY SPECIAL TAIWAN/COLENZO/NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION

My name is Huang Huei-Er (Julia). I came from Taiwan in 1998. My family and I have been living in Napier N.Z. since then. We came to NZ in pursuit of a better education system, good living environment and also to broaden our life experience. I have brought up my three children, two daughters and one son in Napier. They have now finished their Master and Bachelor degrees and have moved onto the next step of their future. I have been working at William Colenso College as a teacher aide for ten years assisting students from non-English speaking backgrounds in the mainstream classes. Sometimes I feel I am their friend sharing students' worries, loneliness, confusion, happiness and unhappiness, and listening and talking to them when they need someone nearby.



I can fully understand what kind of difficulties and barriers our students may encounter, because I have been through those problems myself. Now I am also the ESOL teacher, and run classes especially for those International Students who need extra assistance in learning the English language.

Napier is a very beautiful Art Deco city which experiences many hours of bright sunshine. Compared with big cities, I think it is the best place for high school youth to study. A small city like Napier is a very good English learning environment, especially William Colenso College, under the full support from the Principal Mr. Murfitt and Director of the International Department, Mr. Stewart. We also have Ms Jody Stent (Homestay coordinator) and two other Teacher Aides in our international department. The whole school staff and school teachers are all trying their best to support students' learning and motivate them to achieve their goals.

Following are comments from former Colenso students from Taiwan.

### MARIAN YANG

Hey guys! I'm Marian from Taipei which is the capital of Taiwan. I have been in New Zealand now for about one and a half years. I have been studying at William Colenso College. It's a pretty good school. The people are kind and helpful. I have made so many really nice friends from different countries. Also my English has improved so much since I came to New Zealand. Now I can use English to chat with my friends quite well. I don't want to think about what my English was like when I first arrived. I have enjoyed studying English in New Zealand. It is more fun than studying English in Taiwan.



I have met lots of nice people here and they have helped me a lot with my English. Moreover, I have enjoyed the school trips and the international students' trips. These trips were fun. I also joined some school sports teams. I played girls' basketball, soccer, badminton and tennis. I had to practice on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and had games on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. I enjoyed it. In different sports I have different friends. I'm the B Grade Badminton Champion because I won the Hawke's Bay Secondary Schools Badminton Competition. Here we have two really nice and helpful Teachers - Julia from Taiwan and Moira from New Zealand. Another nice guy is the International Director. These people have all given me a wonderful time in New Zealand



## STEPHANIE CHANG

I am a 16 year old international student from Taiwan and I have been in New Zealand for 10 months. When I came here, I had two host sisters, one Brazilian and one Japanese. Both of them were older than me and were also friendly and nice. This year I have one host sister from Mexico. She is a really good ballet dancer. She is also beautiful and kind. It is awesome to have a host sister, because you can share your life and feelings with them!

I have learnt flute for three years, so I joined the training orchestra and youth orchestra. I really enjoy playing in the orchestra. It was so awesome to play the instruments with others.

On May 5-10 our youth orchestra went down to Wellington to play in the concert with two other orchestras. That was a special experience for me. It was a great thing to perform with people who love music. When I was in Wellington I stayed in a billet. The girl who was my host sister played the violin in Wellington orchestra. She was a lovely girl, and her parents and her sister were so friendly. I was really pleased to stay with them. The second day in Wellington, our orchestra went to the opera "La Cenerentola". It was a twist on Cinderella. It was an interesting opera. I really loved the live orchestra that played with the opera. That was an amazing night.

The last day in Wellington was the day for our concert! After lots of rehearsals, three orchestras became one big orchestra. Music is without limit!!

I went to South island twice in the holidays. That was a very different experience compared to North Island. In North Island, the main geographic feature is volcanoes, but in South Island, it is glaciers.

I have really enjoyed my life in New Zealand. I feel I live without stress. When I was in Taiwan my life was full of stress and I was bored, but my life here is colourful and incredible.

New Zealand is my second home. I am really sure when I go back I will still miss my life and friends here.



## TSAI YI-KAI

My name is Kai and I am currently a year 11 student. For me William Colenso College is the embodiment of new opportunities. The thing that I'm most impressed with this school is the freedom of choice and flexibility of subject selections. This school gave me the opportunity to study at the age level above me, which is what I had always wanted, but no school had ever offered me the chance. While some might say that there's a certain risk that the student would not be able to take on the extra workload, it is also a golden opportunity for me to take my study to the next level, and for this I am grateful to the school. Although I had always loved basketball as a sport, my previous schools did not really have any basketball teams. Therefore, imagine my pleasure to be able to get into the school's basketball team, even if it was only for a few games before the end of the season.

William Colenso also offered me an opportunity unlike the others - that is the opportunity for me to hone my skills in unfamiliar areas.

I had never taken on any leadership roles before, so when the news of student representative on the Board of Trustees came to my ears, I felt that it would be quite a new challenge, albeit nerve-wracking, and went in for it. Overall, I am enjoying my time in Colenso and I am glad of all the opportunities that it has offered me and look forward to those yet to appear.

