



# Haere Mai



*From the International Department of William Colenso College  
to our partner agencies and parents of current international students.*

December 2023

## International Department

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Current Student Numbers:

Japan - 2

Germany - 4

Cambodia - 2

## Kia ora Koutou Katoa

Season's greetings to you all for the many celebrations and holidays that will take place over the next few months.

Term 4 saw some of our internationals completing exams and then making the most of the End of Year programme. This involved some in-school activities such as screen- printing T shirts and creating a mini brochure where they reflected on their time at William Colenso College. I have attached this to the newsletter so you can see what they think in their own words.

It also involved a range of trips, including walking the Tongariro Crossing - an epic 8 hour walk over a mountain, visits to Hobbiton and Waitomo, bush walking, an experience with Sting-rays at Tatapouri and a traditional New Zealand camping experience by the sea.

I have included a few photos of the end of year experience, but the students' own reflections are far more interesting.

From December 20 until January 20 I will be off campus and will not be able to check emails as regularly. Apologies for longer waits than usual for a reply over this period. See below for news about Robin. Safe holidays and kind regards.

Laura



Holidaying in Mahia



Resting on the Tongariro Crossing



## Farewelling Robin Stewart

Robin has been the International Director at William Colenso College since the late 1990's. In fact, it was Robin who developed the department to be what it is today. His contribution and knowledge has been immense, often being called upon to advise other schools in their setting up of an International Department.

Robin has visited many countries and attended many Educational Fairs in his time at WCC. He has met many of you in person on visits and with many of you he has continued to keep a close relationship. He has visited past students and they, in turn, have come back to visit him. He has now chosen to retire and we will miss him. However, for the immediate time, he and Kathy will continue to host students and be in contact with our team.

Robin with wife Kathy





## William Colenso College International Students 2023



Yuna Tanaka 田中 結菜

Hi, I'm Yuna Tanaka. I'm from Tokyo in Japan. I'm 16 and turning 17 on 11th February. I've been in New Zealand for about a whole year, coming here in January and returning in December.

I have a lot of important memories in here so let me explain them, but there are more memories than what I will write here, so I would like to introduce four that are very important memories for me.

At first I was living with my friend who was one of the WCC International student from Germany. Her and our host family were so nice to me. If I had any problems they let me consult with them anytime and they were always helping me to improve my English skills. This things is one of the reasons why I was able to enjoy my study abroad.

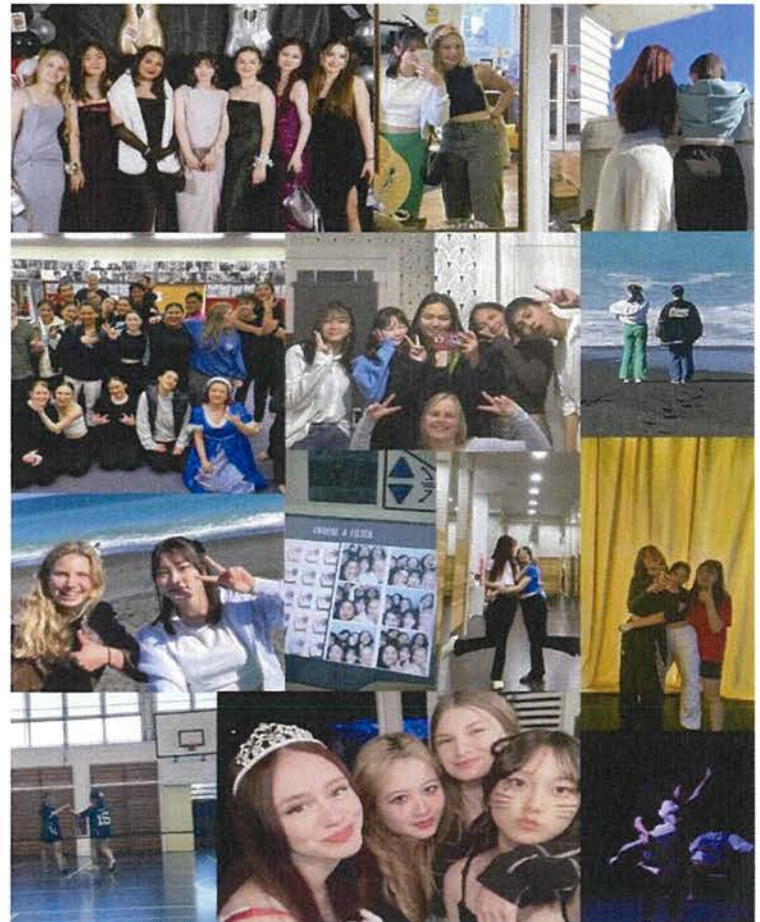
The second one is the school ball. This allows you to wear whatever dress you like to the dance party. I took pictures, danced, and ate food with lots of people. My Japanese school doesn't have anything like that so I'm glad that I got to experience it.

The third one is school production. I'm taking dance and performance classes so I participated in it. We performed Romeo and Juliet. I'm one of the dancers. It was hard to practice this almost everyday after school but it was really fun to have meetings, go shopping for costumes and I did makeup together with my friends. So that we could all put on a good performance.

The forth one is I have lots of friends here. At first I was really worried about making friends but I did it while actively participating in various events. They are so nice to me and they are dear friends to me. The main reason I was able to make so many good memories in New Zealand is because of my friends. That's why, I really want to say thank you to my friends and I will miss my friends.

By studying abroad, I was able to experience many things that I would not have been able to experience if I had stayed in Japan. I will continue to study English even after I return to Japan so that I can put these things to use when I return to Japan. I really appreciate my friends, teachers, and family for supporting my study abroad. Thank you so much.

最後に私と留学生生活を共に送ってくれて、辛い時いつもそばにいてくれて感動や笑いを共有できた宝来には感謝しかないです。日本に帰ったらお互い離れた場所で生活することになるけどまた2人でニュージーランドでも他の国でも行こうね。改めてありがとうございます！







Name: Lili  
Age: 16  
Germany - Munich



William Colenso College 2023/24



The 4 months I've spent in New Zealand till now count to one of the best experiences I've had in my entire life. I already did so many fun things and trips. I went on a canoe trip with friends of mine and we had such a great time. I also was tramping as part of a survival trip, which was a great experience. I also did lots of fun things with the friends I've made at tennis and Football, we went to Whanganui for a tournament, and it was such a great time. Doing Te vaka maia was one of the best decisions in my life. The feeling completing the longest day is just incredible and I would always do it again. The group and the team and all the people I've met there and made friends with are just great, the feeling of being part of something big is the best and the people there turned into another family. The people I've met turned into good friends of mine in a short period of time and I couldn't imagine life without them. It doesn't have to be something big that we are doing, just hanging out on the beach or in the town with my friends makes my days.

All the people I've met are so kind and make my experience even greater. My host-family is one of the best things that happened to me, just living life with them is such a great thing to experience and they always treat me, as if I'm one of their own kids. My host-siblings make my day every day, I already feel like they always have been in my life and as if they are my real siblings. I'm so grateful for all the people I've met and am excited for all the things I'm going to do and the people I'm going to meet!



## Karo

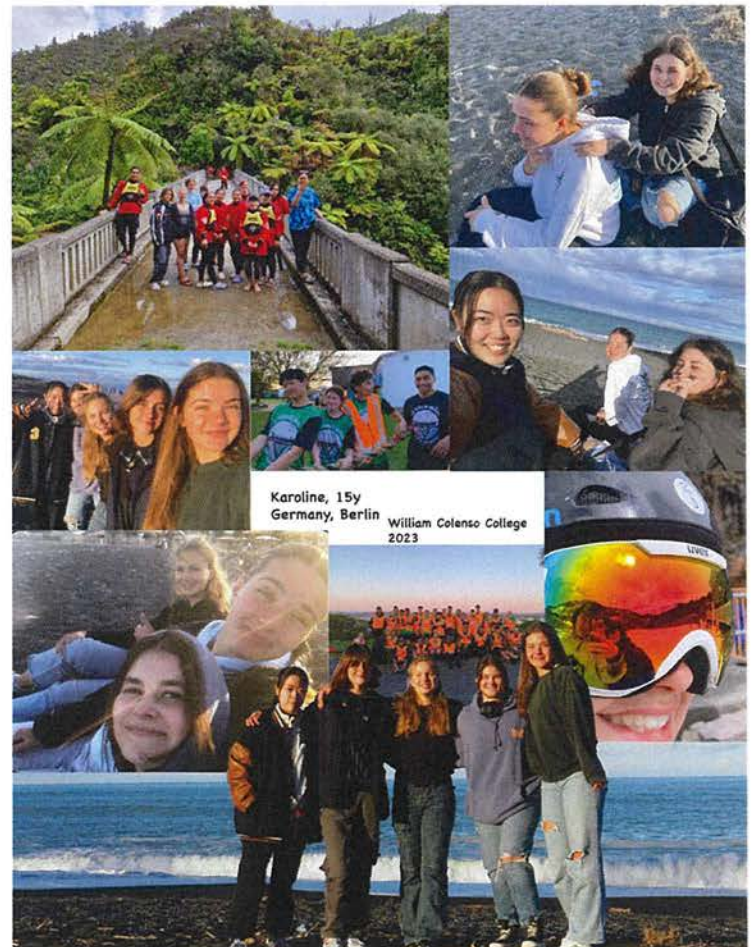
The experiences I have made over the last 4 months in New Zealand are some of the best I made in my life. And it's not just because of the activities we make. It's because of the people I have met here. The first time I realised this was when we came here and everyone was ready to support and help us. Next there would be Te Vaka Maia, even after an injury. I was welcomed to participate and finish the 'longest day'.

It was one of the best decisions I have ever made, because being part of such a big community is an incredible feeling. The people I have met there are great and became good friends of mine. I am grateful to have experienced Te Vaka Maia. It showed me that if you don't give up, you can achieve your goals and that being in a team makes everything more enjoyable.

And our activities made us an even better team, after tipping over with a canoe, we didn't just have something to laugh about but we also got to solve the problem and work together! I think the activities help us to work better in a team and they also have an influence on the rest of our life, because they teach us things we never would have learned. But also the simple things make it such an enjoyable experience. Like sitting on the beach or making picnics in parks with friends.

Getting to know the culture and people is something I will always remember and value. Each person I have met had an influence on me, which I am really grateful for. Being part of a band and making music together was something I missed from Germany, but after being here for a few months, I found people who welcomed me in their group and showed me the music that they're playing. Also having someone to teach me more guitar skills is such an important aspect of my experiences.

Overall I can say that making my exchange year in this country and in this school was a decision I will never regret and that I will always value. I am looking forward to the memories I will make and I know I will always love to look back at the time I have spent here.



Karoline, 15y  
Germany, Berlin  
William Colenso College  
2023



## Experience in New Zealand

Takara Nihei

I'm Takara Nihei. I'm from Japan. Coming to New Zealand has been one of my big dreams since I was child so I was happy to come and stay and study in New Zealand for a year.

My city is a Sister City with Napier so I had some opportunities to meet people from Napier. This is one reason why I chose New Zealand to study abroad, but I have another big reason. That is Maori culture. I saw the Kapa Haka show when I was a high school student and it made me want to go to New Zealand. Now, I think it's amazing that Maori language and culture is so widely used in New Zealand.

Now, I have a lot of memories from WCC. WCC offers a lot of chances to try something new, especially in the Outdoor Education class. Actually, I don't like outdoor activities, but New Zealand is famous for nature so I took an Outdoor Education class. And it was actually a good choice. I went surfing, canoeing, blow karting and so on as an outdoor trip. Most of the activities were for the first time, but I really enjoyed everything. Also, I had the opportunity to take dance and performance classes. Honestly, I'm not good at dancing and I don't like it. But I want to try something new so I participated in a school production as a dancer.

Getting ready to perform we had practice after school everyday, so it was a really busy time. But it was through being part of the school production, I made new friends. Recently, we had a dance showcase. Choreography became more difficult than dances we performed in the school production. Because of this, I sometimes feel frustrated because I can't dance well but my friends helped me a lot, so my dancing is getting better everyday.

Lastly, what I can say through this year is that my English has improved a lot. At first, I couldn't speak English well and I also couldn't understand everything so I felt depressed a lot. But now I can talk to my friends and I can understand almost everything, so I want to say thank you to everyone for teaching me English.

Thank you New Zealand, Thank you WCC!!

1年間New Zealandで過ごせて、新しいことに挑戦できて本当に楽しかったです。みんなありがとう！そして唯一年一緒だった結菜、留学生のみんなお疲れ様！！二瓶 宝来



Kia Ora, ko Emilia tōku ingoa me kei ten oho au ki Tiamana.  
(Hello, my name is Emilia and I live in Germany).  
I'm 16 years old, but have never experienced that many new things in such a short period of time. I've stayed in Napier for almost half a year now, but after going on so many little adventures it feels like an eternity has past. One thing I definitely will never regret is choosing Outdoor Education as one of my subjects, as I got to try a new sport named blokarting, went on a ski-trip (even though in the end I only did snowboarding), I've been on a canoeing trip for about three days, which was a true highlight of my time here and we also went to a high ropes course.



I've done some surfing in Raglan with two of the other german girls and it was just amazing. I was happy about everytime I got to see a bit more of New Zealand, like when I went to Taupo with Karoline or every car ride we needed to go on for the Outdoor Education trips. Another school subject I love is dance and I didn't even intend on doing it, but trying new things kind of got my new thing for this whole journey. I even took part in the dance showcase and even though I am no professional dancer, yet, I had so much fun and enjoyed it so much. I also met the best new people in my dance class, who probably were the biggest reason for me to love this class, as they made me feel like I belonged.

Another thing I did here was volunteer for the SPCA, because I just adore animals and would never miss out on a chance to help them and to spend as much time with them as I can. Despite that my time in NZ is going to be over soon, I'm looking forward to the last few adventures waiting for me.





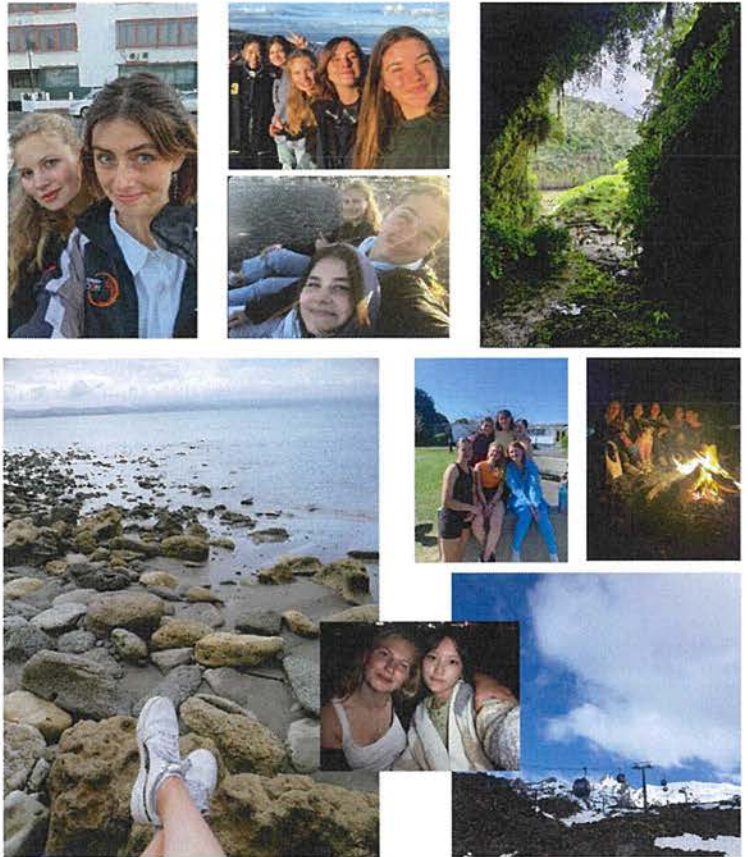
## Anna

Hey my name is Anna and I've been at William Colenso College for half a year. During this time, I turned 17. For me my visit was a journey full of fun, like going on a canoeing trip, joining the school soccer team and making new friends. I created lots of great memories which I will never forget.

One of these memories is the canoeing trip which we did with the outdoor education class. For three days we paddled down the Whanganui river and camped. Even though it rained a lot, I collected fantastic memories and I would do it again.

Another great experience was the ski trip to the Whakapapa Ski field. I had a great time skiing together with my friends, laughing and trying something new like skiing with just one ski.

I was thankful for every chance to see New Zealand a little bit more, and going to Raglan in the holidays to surf with two friends was one of the best choices I ever made. Being at the beach, going surfing and swimming was great and we had a wonderful time. The half year just flew by and I wish I could stay longer, but I will definitely never forget the time I had here.



## Sky



I WILL SEE YOU IN THE NEXT EPISODE OF MY LIFE. REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BE HAPPY AND SMILE JUST LIKE SKY DOES. LIFE IS LIKE MAGIC, BECAUSE YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN. SO, MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DAY. 😊

Hi, this is SKY. I am clumsy, friendly, and annoying as well. I am a person who is really hard to understand and most people do not want to make friends with me at all. I never receive a really good relationship with other people besides my family even though sometimes my family do not understand me as well. Then I met a geezer named Milton this year. I moved out from my cousin on 15 March 2023 to live with him. At first I did not really understand him at all, but a few months later I just realized that I have a professor at home. I started to change my bad attitude and become a better person. He taught me many ways to approach people and take care of them. Not only him but even his family, they treat me so well that I feel like I am also a part of their family. I have never had this feeling before from other people that are not my relatives. Milton also had a really lovely wife, but unfortunately she passed away because of cancer. I think that is enough for that.

Talking about school, I started my year 11 in February 2023. At that time, New Zealand was suffering from a cyclone which wiped out so much infrastructure. I lived without electricity for 2 days and it was terrible, I could not call or watch kpop and what I can do was just sleep. A week after the school reopened again, I met so many new people. We have so many new international students, but some of them only stay here for a few weeks. I was not really close to them, because I am not really good with my social skills and I am super shy sometimes. Anyway, the school was fun. I enjoy getting credits and annoying people I guess. I took seven subjects throughout five days in a week. My most favorite subjects are Esol and Outdoor Education. I really hate Math and English. I found out that most of my teachers are really friendly. They take care of me so well and they also enjoy my sense of humor as well. I can say that the teachers that I met here are way better than the teachers in my country, they are more patient, more reliable, easy to talk to and they understand me a lot. I have some problems at school about vaping and bullying. Thankfully, that problem does not happen a lot these days, because I am kinda more adaptable. I really hate the school lunch. They usually give me potatoes which I hate the most.

Let's talk about what fun things I do. At the beginning of the year I learned how to do first aid to help and receive my first aid certificate. Technically it is a really important skill that everyone should have and the reason why I want to do the course is to save someone's life someday. I learned about how to do CPR on infants and adult dummies and using a defibrillator on the dummies and know how to use it step by step. I also learned how to stop the bleeding and so much more. I went surfing and even though I do not know how to swim at all. I can fix that by taking some swimming lessons so I can get better at swimming and save someone if they are drowning. Most of the time I play the speaker to bring a vibe and make people sing or dance to my kpop music and other songs that I and others enjoy listening to. I also usually say the words like Halyah, Fuiyoh, and the most annoying word is EMOTIONAL DAMAGE and I think people don't like it cause it's like an old thing and they probably think it's dry and as I mean in dry like not funny. But I feel proud to say these words, because they laugh and seem to enjoy my sense of humor, except my homemates. They sometimes say I have to shoot you and that is what Milton said. In June we had a school ball that I did not join, because I have no girlfriend and the ball is too expensive. Later on that month, I went on the trip to Rotorua for 2 nights. It was amazing except sleeping (if I told you about that, it means you are special). After that I did the climbing in outdoor education and also belaying. I can say that I am an expert at that. Anyway, still no one trusts me, but that's alright cause one day they will when they see what I can do. I went skiing on the 19th of the September. That was my first time seeing snow and skiing too. I really enjoy the feeling of skiing and I would like to do it again. At the end of September I went to Auckland to visit my guardian's daughter, but I had a lot of fun. I went to rainbows end, rock climbing, and I can not forget about the Sky Tower. I want to live there in the future and explore a lot more and do things that I haven't done before. In October I went canoeing and that is pretty much it. I think that it was a really good experience and would recommend doing it again if I had another chance to go.

New Zealand is the most fun country that I have been so far. I had many new experiences in terms of living and communication and trying to build my social skills. I did not expect that I would have that amount of freedom and fun. I want to stay here forever to get along with people and build really good friendships with other people. 2023 is a really cool year, because I met a lot of new people and received so many experiences that I could not have in Cambodia and things here in New Zealand are kind of life changing for me.