



Haere Mai



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

June 2023

International Department

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Current students number:

Japan - 2
Germany - 3
Cambodia - 2

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

Term Two feels like a return to normal. It has been a busy term with the Futuropoly career event, the school ball, Romeo and Juliet School Production rehearsals, Surfing, Haka Waiata competition, a Fiafia evening, Art exhibition trips, an international trip to Rotorua and so much more.

Our internationals have been making the most of the opportunities on offer. Below are a selection of photographs of them enjoying their experiences.

Students also experienced a rousing haka on their departure, which was a unique and very emotional experience for many of them.

Enjoy the newsletter

Laura

Surfing after school

Surfing, and many other outdoor education pursuits, were badly affected by the cyclone in Term One, but students made the most of the opportunity this term, despite some chilly winter days.

By the end of the sessions, students were able to stand on the surf-board in the water for a short time. Well done for persevering.



Haka Farewell for departing German students Lola, Carla, Emilie and Victoria.



Lola was farewellled with a rousing haka at the end of Term One. She was sad to be leaving as she had had a great time.

Carla, Emile and Victoria received a rousing haka farewell after they had participated in the production rehearsal at the Term Two final assembly.

School Ball.



The school Ball at the Old Mill was a fun evening dressing up and all our students looked stunning. This year students loved being on the dance floor and danced the night away. It also turned out to be a covid super-spreader event with many students falling sick over the next few weeks. At least they had a good time on the night!

Carla, Winnie, Renz, Yuna, Emilie, Takara, Jody and Victoria

Careers

Senior Students had the opportunity to attend two careers events during the term. The Futuropoly event, which is a careers event based on a game, was by far the most popular. Students had to ask questions at each of the stands and won points for how interested they were and good use of questioning. At the end they could use their points to 'buy' prizes that had been donated by the Dingle foundation.



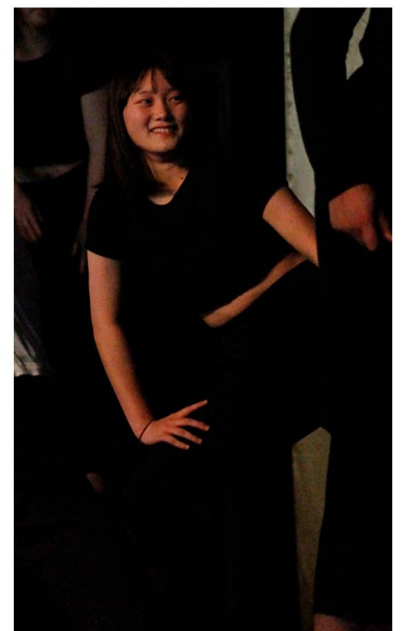
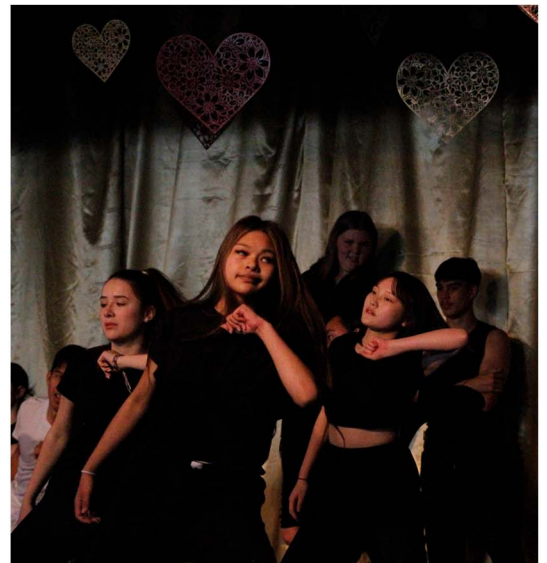
Sky trying out the machinery at the Futuropoly careers day

Parivansh with his winnings at Futuropoly



Romeo and Juliet

Our school production of Romeo and Juliet was supposed to be performed at the end of Term Two. Unfortunately, large numbers of the cast and teachers succumbed to Covid and the production had to be postponed until Term Three. This dress rehearsal at the end of term allowed our performing internationals Carla and Emilie, to perform before they flew home. Takara and Yuna are also apart of the show.



International trip to Rotorua - day 1 by Emilie

We started the trip at around 9 o'clock after everyone arrived. We drove the Napier Taupo road to then do a quick break to get some lunch and fill up the car with petrol. We then headed off to watch the dam open at the Aratiatia Rapids Scenic Reserve. After watching the dam open and the water flooding the area around it, we made our way to the Huka Falls where we had our lunch break. We then drove to Rotorua.



On our way to Rotorua we stopped and went to visit the hot pools in Ngakuru - Waikite Valley where we spent some time. They had a walk to their hot water source which we looked at as well. On our way out we visited the Waitapu mud pools, which were bubbling and smelly. Before we got to our accommodation we had a quick look around the city centre of Rotorua. Our accommodation was a little bit out of town. For dinner we made burgers, everyone helped either doing the burgers or cleaning up afterwards. After dinner we went to the gym that our accommodation had and played some football, basketball and red light/green light games against each other. After winning and losing we all had a hot chocolate and some mandarins and that's how we let the day come to an end.

Tuesday, June 27th 2023 (second day) - by Carla

In the morning we woke up at about half past seven and prepared breakfast at eight am. Everyone brought their own food to eat but we all shared toast, bread and different spreads. After washing all the dishes everyone got ready and we left our accommodation at about nine.

The first activity of the day was the redwood forest where we could walk from tree to tree on high, narrow bridges. At all stops there were information boards to read more about the redwoods or you could just enjoy the idyllic environment. It was pretty cold up there but we were still lucky with the weather since we had no rain but some sun. At the end of the walk we could have a look into a little souvenir shop where we Germans bought some gifts for our families at home.

Our next destination was Rainbow Mountain. The car rides were always pretty comfortable for me because I could just listen to music, eat and sleep. I think it was a good opportunity for everyone to have a rest and gather new power which was particularly necessary for the next activity. Our goal was to hike the mountain to the top and back. The trail was very muddy and slippery and most of the clothes got dirty. Again we were lucky it didn't rain, it actually became hot instead because we were all dressed heavily but the hiking was so exhausting that some of our group only wore t-shirts in the end. I needed a lot of breaks and water to survive the hike. However, in the end we all made it to the top and could enjoy the nice view with our prepared lunch which was sandwiches and snacks. I would say overall it was worth it because we did some exercising and all international students agree that coming to New Zealand isn't helping if you want to get a healthier diet.

The way back felt pretty short but the walking itself was difficult because it was very slippery and wet and we had to watch out not to fall down. When we arrived at the car, everyone was exhausted and tired so we were happy to relax while driving to the last attraction of the day. In between we stopped for a break and got invited for some delicious ice cream in special flavors.

At the last location we visited the Māori village with the name TE WHAKAREWAREWATANGAOTEOPETAUAUAWĀHIAO. A guide showed us around the place including the Kiwi bird building and Te Puia, the Māori Arts and Crafts Institute where we could see people do traditional carving and weaving. The guide was passionate about his culture and his job which made the tour more interesting and his stories more special.

The tour also included a dinner with buffet and everyone loved it. They had many different kinds of meat, vegetables, seafood and amazing deserts like chocolate cake, ice cream or fruit salad. I enjoyed it a lot, it was probably one of my favorite things of our Rotorua trip.

After the long dinner we got a new guide together with a big group of people who led us to a cultural performance of Māori which was a big family. It lasted for about half an hour and we all enjoyed it. It was fascinating and beautiful to watch their dances and listen to the singing. The evening experience ended with hot chocolate, blankets and a view of the geysers that were illuminated with purple light. Our guide was entertaining us with information and singing until the very end. A little train took us back to the car park and on the ride home I fell asleep right away. When we arrived at our tiny houses, everyone was exhausted after everything we had done that day and went straight to bed.

I think that day was actually my favorite one of the Rotorua trip because we experienced beautiful nature combined with a fun cultural evening and endless good food.

