



Haere Mai



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

April 2025

International Department

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Moiria Terry and Louise Macfarlane
ESOL Teachers

Kana Koga
International teacher Aide - Japan

Zilda Greeks
International teacher Aide - Brazil

Current Student Numbers:

Japan - 2

Germany - 7

Cambodia - 2

France - 1

Kia ora Koutou Katoa

Welcome to 2025. While our students have been busy settling into school and enjoying activities in sunny Hawke's Bay, I have been on a marketing trip to Europe. Oslo was -4 degrees and Germany and Switzerland were pretty chill too. It was awesome to catch up with so many agents and meet prospective students. I am now back and ready for our term 1 trip to Rotorua. Enjoy the photos from our many activities.

Kind regards Laura



A very happy Catherina



Here are our new students from Japan and Germany. In the first week we have house activities so students get to know each other and their teachers. Catherina was thrilled to get her wet sponge into the bucket so she could tip a bucket of water over the teacher!



Felix and Gaspard at Waitangi Day celebrations

Student awards and Leadership



Here are our student leadership team. We were really proud to have three of our internationals stepping up to take on a leadership role. Karoline Franke is our Deputy Head Girl (second from left in front), Felix from Cambodia is a house leader (hiding in the back) and Sky from Cambodia (absent), is our international leader. They went on camp at the end of last year to hone their leadership skills.



Karo addressing assembly



WASEDA student Goichiro from Japan played piano for us in assembly on his last day and thanked the school for looking after him and his friends. He was farewelled along with Sotaro and Ayato with a rousing haka led by our leadership students. Safe travels home.



Students stay in touch.

Tatsuki and Erica came to visit us on their honeymoon. Tatsuki studied with us in 2008.



The recent marriage of ex students, Queenie, from Malaysia (2010) to Willis from China (2009) with Queenie's family. Queenie's brother, Tim, who was also a student here in 2009.



Hobbiton and Rotorua Trip 2025



Our three day trip was a great adventure taking in a variety of activities.

We had an early start and drove straight to Hobbiton - over 4 hours due to the roadworks! This was really special and despite the fact that many of the students had not seen Lord of the Rings or The Hobbit, they really enjoyed the experience. The miniature hobbit hole interiors were a real hit and Gaspard enjoyed practising his knitting.

Next stop was Te Puia for a tour of the Marae complex, a visit to the Kiwi house, where we saw a kiwi up close and a walk around the geysers. The highlight here is always the buffet, which Sky was really looking forward to for the third time. After dinner students were treated to an excellent cultural performance and then we went to see the thermal activity by night.

We eventually made it to our cabins at Lake Tikitapu by 10pm - wow, it was a long day!



Soaking in the hot water and standing under the waterfall, surrounded by native bush, was a special treat at Kerosene Creek

Lake Tikitapu

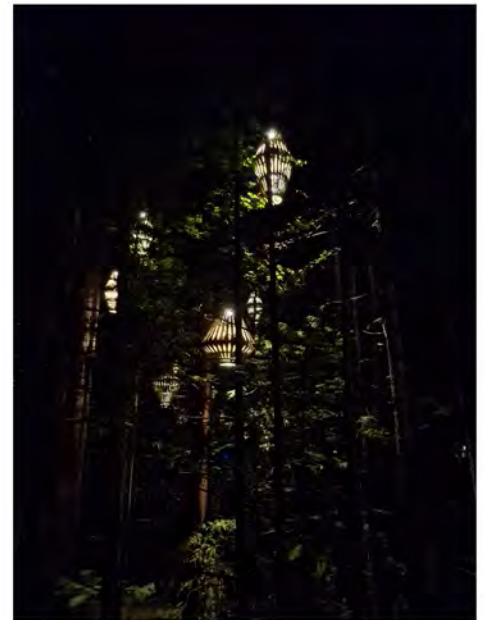


Te Puia



Huka Jet was a highlight





Day two we were up early, prepared our lunches and headed for the Gondola and Luge. Some of the students chose to experience the Big Swing as well.

From here we drove to Kerosene Creek - a locals' favourite spot to soak in the thermal hot pools surrounded by native bush. This was a very cool experience for the students.

After dinner we did the Treetops Walk in the dark. This platform and rope bridge walk set high in the Redwoods in Rotorua, looks spectacular at night lit up by David Trubridge designed lamps.

On our final day we went to check out Aratiatia Rapids and bumped into an ex student - Thomas Harich, who studied with us in 2010. He recognised Jody in the carpark. How cool is that, Jody must look the same as she did 15 years ago!

And our final activity was Huka Jet - claimed by many students to be their favourite activity. It certainly had a high adrenalin factor!



Gondola and Luge