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A WORD FROM US

*A COLLECTION OF WRITING
BY OUR STUDENTS*



Rural Youth &
Adult Literacy Trust

An open letter to our Students, Coaches, Sponsors and Volunteers.

This publication is a celebration of our RYALT students' inspiring and insightful writing. We are so proud to share this with you all and wish to thank you for all of your efforts.

As you read through the writing that has been shared here, please take time to reflect on the progress and dedication that has gone into producing this beautiful book.

The planning, the writing, the editing and the publishing are valuable skills that continue to improve throughout our lifelong literacy journey.

To our students who agreed to write so that we could publish this book... A huge thank you! Your work will be read with pleasure by people all around New Zealand and our supporters and sponsors will enjoy reading your pieces and seeing the literacy skills you have acquired through your perseverance and hard work.

Coaches will be able to share your writing with new students to provide them with interesting reading material and help encourage them to follow in your footsteps to improve their literacy skills.

We thank all the volunteers who helped compile this book, particularly our editor, Amanda Livingston, for the many hours she has dedicated to our students' writing books over the years.

And we are hugely grateful to the Adult Community Education Aotearoa (ACE) for the Festival of Learning Funding which made the printing and postage of the book possible.

Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching.

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The Weekend

It was a long weekend. I drove with my family to visit Taupo. It took two hours from Napier to Taupo. The road was windy, but the view was very beautiful. On both sides of the road, there were lots of trees, filled with green, and birds flying freely in the blue-sky singing songs of joy as if to welcome the arrival of our family. Far away, sheep and cows grazed happily in the meadows, and gave a few cries from time to time.

Taupo. We have arrived already. It's located in the middle of the North Island. It's a great place and there is plenty of accommodation. We chose a youth hostel. It had a hot spring and the environment was very nice with lots of trees around and the scenery was very beautiful, but the accommodation was very cheap. It is very suitable for my family. We spent two nights there. We enjoyed the hot spring.

My daughter, Emily, especially liked it. On the morning of the second day, we went to the biggest lake in New Zealand with the guidance of our friends. We rowed a boat and enjoyed a good time. I saw lots of water sports, such as water skiing, sailing and kayaking. The forests surrounding the lake offer hiking and biking.

Far away, I saw white snow on the mountain tops too. In the afternoon, we went to a local restaurant, the lamb and fish were very delicious. I preferred the lamb. It has a special taste. At night time my family liked swimming. We enjoyed a good time chatting with family. It was also a good time to rest. Taupo is a good place for a trip.

By K



My Beautiful Wife

My wife's name is DASOM KANG. Her English name is Som. I met her almost 15 years ago in the University. Fortunately, we were joined at same club. We were best friends. So naturally we began our relationship.

She loves to take a photo. So, we like to travel to take a beautiful photo. Also, she likes to cook for her own meal. Therefore, she usually goes to a supermarket to find ingredients that she likes for meal. Plus, she enjoys watching groceries at a supermarket. If she finds new products, she really wants to try it. I can say she is a food trendy person.

My wife is a smiley and social person. She loves to talk with people. Whenever she was in the group chatting, the mood is fun and happy.

Her job is a pastry chef. She majored Korean language in Korea. However, she changed her major when she decided to immigrate to New Zealand. Because it was easy to get the visa.

She found her interests when she was making cakes. She is excited when she is creating a custom cake. The happiest thing about her job is that everyone who ordered a cake are happy and celebrate something. So, she can feel and share happy moments when she talked with customers.

By Jin



FMG

Stadium

Waikato

FMG Stadium Review

By Amanda

The FMG stadium is located in Hamilton central and hosts rugby games. The stadium has a rich history dating back 100 years. In 1934 the roof of the basic original grandstand collapsed, no one was injured, and in 1958 the construction of a new grandstand began. That construction remains today and is now called the Porter Group Stand. This is where I was seated and I'm pleased to say the roof remained structurally sound, throughout the Chiefs rugby match I was attending.

My friend had bought our tickets online as he's a member so that made that process easy. I had done my study on the Chiefs' website, so had a rough idea on where we could park, we got lucky and parked in a school field for \$10.

The stadium had light up signs saying gate 1 and gate 4. Finding our seats however proved difficult, because we had bought our tickets online we had to keep looking at our phone to see what number while also trying to juggle our bags, team scarf and jackets. The ticket was confusing with aisle number, row letter and the seat number for someone who's dyslexic I was right confused. We eventually found our seats after a few wrong turns.

The atmosphere was electric. There were so many proud fans wearing their team colors, ringing bells with exhilaration and children waving their flags with such excitement they were basically waving with their flags. Songs played over the speakers and everyone joined in singing.

When the players entered the field everyone cheered, when they scored a try big flame throwers went up in the air casting heat waves over us and when one of our players got tackled hard everyone went "oohhh".

I felt like I had picked the short straw when it came to our seats as my view was slightly obscured by a pole, that was used to hold up the roof, which was right in the middle of my view of the field

The seats looked clean but spacious they were not, have you ever gone to your kids' primary school and had to sit on their little chairs, well that's what it felt like all jammed up and nowhere to put your legs and if someone had to walk in front of you to get to their seats well good luck



We were seated under shelter so if it rained we wouldn't get wet which was great and we were up high so could see all the action, however sometimes I felt I needed my glasses to see better. The rest rooms were clean with plenty of toilets and not far to walk to get to them. They had food and beverage stores but they do not take cash so make sure you have your card on you otherwise you'll be going hungry and thirsty.

My overall view on the stadium is, that I would recommend coming along to a game and seeing for yourself what it's like.

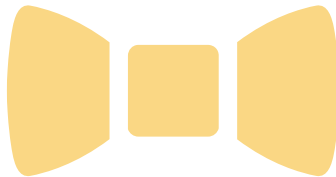
The atmosphere alone is like nothing you can get from watching it at home or a pub it's exhilarating and you feel like you're a part of something special.

Be prepared to be a little uncomfortable in the seats but don't let that put you off, it hasn't put me off, and there may be better seats in the other newer grandstand. When the game is finished be prepared to be in gridlock traffic or do what I did and stay seated in the grandstand until most people have left because hey what's the hurry?

Toby

Big, black, white and fluffy,
Toby is so scruffy,
His markings are of a saddle,
An extra-large cat to cuddle,
He soaks up the rays with much delight,
Meows at the birds above in flight.
He slowly moves towards his dish,
It's filled with biscuit bites and fish,
As the sun goes down tonight,
He jumps into bed,
And curls up tight.

By S



My Favourite Vehicles

The Grand Cherokee has a 5.7 litre Hemi V8 with an eight-speed automatic transmission, with a top speed of 300km per hour.

The Frontier has a 3.8 litre, V 6 with a nine-speed automatic transmission, with a top speed of 235km per hour.

The Highlander has a 3.5 litre V6 with an eight-speed automatic transmission, with a top speed of 180km per hour.

The Y62 Patrol has a 5.6 litre petrol V8 with a seven-speed automatic transmission, with a top speed of 240km per hour.

and My Favourite Thing to Do

One of my favourite pastimes is fishing. I have a small 15ft boat which is good enough to get me around the Kaipara harbour. The type of fish I mainly caught this season was snapper.

This summer was great fishing on the Kaipara getting my limit almost every time I went out. The fishing seems to be better in shallower water - around 10 to 15 feet.

The size of the fish was around 400 to 500mm, which makes good eating.

The kahawai we caught, we smoked, one of the best ways to eat this type of fish.

By K

Love Conquers All

Who am I if I can not love myself?

If I do not love what I do, then life is pointless. I have to stay focused on God, after all God tells me and my wife to love one another and do good to those who persecute the word of God.

What is the right thing to say to people? That love is the key to everything I do with Jesus. Show a good example to your neighbours, to your friends and families. Jesus is the centre of it all.

In the book of John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that who so ever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

By Robert



My little day dreams

It started off with one a small day dream then puff in science I'm day dreaming about cello and how I hope I won't be late. The thing is day dreams are hard to control they are like walking in to a candy story and telling your self NO; no more candy: It just happens and the other thing about day dreams are how does your mind decide on all the random things to day dream about, it takes me about ten minutes do decide on what cereal to eat in the morning.



The sun is shining and the bees look warm and fuzzy buzz buzz the bees fly past over my little garden, away they go.

In my little garden there are flowers and insects.

The flowers grow fast and strong almost taller than a gumboot.

Yellow ,red and blue all the colours in the rainbow.

Different types of flowers like Daffodils, Daisies, Lilies and Tulips too grow in my little garden.



IF I WON LOTTO

By Amanda

Have you ever been asked what would you do if you won lotto? I have, several times, and I know exactly what I would do.

Firstly, I'd pinch myself just to make sure I wasn't dreaming. Then to be honest I'd probably just stare at the ticket for hours in disbelief. I wouldn't celebrate until I had the money in my bank, when there was absolutely no doubt that that money was mine.

Boom, the money is now in the bank. Now it's time to celebrate, but it would-be low-key celebrating as I don't want everyone to know I'm rich. As the saying goes more money more problems.

In my opinion the problems don't come from having money as money can really help. The problems, in having more money, comes from people wanting hand outs and expecting handouts because well you're rich you can afford it, right.

Some people can use you for your money, they will give you sob stories and make you feel like you have to give them money. This can cause you to feel like an ATM for your friends and family, which will therefore cause strain and tension in your relationships. So, beware of who you tell.



Once I know who to let in on my big secret, I will pop the Champagne bottle and we will toast to my good fortune. I will continue to go to work as I have to keep up the appearance that nothing has changed, all the while starting to strategize and plan what to do with the money.

I'm not silly when it comes to money, and since it's a lot of money I need to be smart with it. I've heard a few people say invest some money, but because I don't know much about investing I'd go to my parents for some guidance there. When all the boring being smart stuff is taken care of, that's when I can have some real fun.

Let the real fun begin. Now it's time to look for some land, nothing too big, but big enough for my house and maybe a couple of farm animals. My land has to have some bush and a creek running through it because I love seeing native birds and there's something so peaceful about running water.

Once I have found my land of paradise, I then need to start designing my house. At least four bedrooms two bathrooms, my room will of course have an ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe. With an open plan kitchen and living room that all opens up to a massive deck overlooking my stunning view of paradise.



I'll then have look at what animals I want. I will have to get a pig because my son has always wanted one. I want a pet deer, I may have to get two of each so they're not lonely.

While my dream house is being built, I will be on a plane. Where I will go first I don't know, but I want to see the world.

I want to go to Greece, Hawaii, Italy, England, Denmark, Iceland and Germany just to name a few. There are so many things I want to see and do, like seeing the beautiful Santorini with its white-washed buildings and deep blue sea, walk through the ruins of Pompeii.

I want to snorkel with the turtles at Hawaii and visit the Pearl Harbour historic sites. To walk around the Colosseum Arena floor where they had gladiator fights, and see all of

ancient Rome the history is so interesting and dates so far back in time. To go see Buckingham Palace, have a tour at the Warner Bros studio, and to check out the mystery Stonehenge. Have a guided tour at Copenhagen as I have ancestors that have come from there. See the incredible views Iceland has to offer and go on an ice cave tour and glacier hike, and to walk through the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. Just to name a few.



But let's be real for a second, in reality you don't need to win lotto to do the things you dream of doing, if you want something bad enough you can find a way to make it happen. Because everything is a dream until you decide to make it real and it takes hard work and determination. So, I'll send you a postcard from Rome one day while I marvel at how great life can be.

There is so much to see out there and so much to do. So, as I buy my Lotto ticket and hope against all hope that I win that big prize one day, I'll just keep dreaming of my big lotto dream.

Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

Piracy is still going on in and around Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, and has been for a long time. They are armed and dangerous and will attack any sort of super yacht or containerships. They steal anything on the boat that they can get cash for: fuel, out board engines, any personal stuff that crew members have, anything worth value.

They will also hijack the boat and crew for ransom money. This is very common and the ship owner or company have to pay them the ransom money or they will kill the crew. This happens a lot.

There is a lot of military presence around the Gulf of Aden to try and stop the piracy, but it still goes on today. It's a very big problem. It's costing a lot of money to keep the military there, and they need to stay there because it is the main shipping route for most of the world's shipping trade.

By D



Megacities

Megacities like London, New York or Tokyo loom large in our imaginations. Those metropolises are still associated with fortune and fame. However, city dwellers have to face a lot of problems. I strongly advise that some policies should be carried out by governments to encourage people to move to smaller regional towns. This essay will discuss the problems in large cities and explain the reasons to support my view.

Firstly, city dwellers have to endure the pressure from high living costs like housing, power, water and petrol. Heavy traffic is also a major problem because it results in wasting time and pollution. Most people have to spend lots of time in the traffic to get to work and to get home.

The quality of air and water is often worse in a big city. Heavy traffic also results in expensive fees or insufficient space for parking cars. In a big city like Auckland in New Zealand, when people go to the zoos, hospitals, or shopping complexes, there is often a high fee for parking their cars, or people find it difficult to find a space to park their cars. In addition, more population may result in less access for people to be close to nature. Research shows that the risk for serious mental illness is generally higher in big cities than in rural areas. Being close to nature could promote positive moods.

As people are suffering from the problems that they have to face daily in big cities, I strongly recommend that the governments sort out some practical solutions to encourage people to move to smaller regional towns. They should put aside more funding into support and promote public services like transportation and hospitals in the smaller regional towns. In addition, devolution of policy making powers would leave many lesser cities freer from central governments than ever, so they can build amenities for people to live in.

By Phyllis



My Experience in Sydney

I had the most amazing experience of my life getting to see my son sing on stage. I'm so glad I didn't miss it. I was so proud of him.

While I was in Sydney I got to see the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. They are so stunning.

Unfortunately, I was also there when a guy decided to stab people in the mall. That definitely was a sad part of being in Sydney.

These have been my highlights and the low of my trip to Sydney.

By Rodney



A Letter of Encouragement

Invercargill
1st March 2024

Dear Stephen,

I would like to tell you how awesome it is to see someone else learning to read at our age. I was 58 when I started learning to read and write, which was over three years ago. I watched my wife reading to my grandchildren and I wanted to do the same. I was always ashamed of not being able to read. I had an opportunity to be taught by a lovely lady who lives in Tinopai in the North Island. I live in Invercargill.

It's really hard to trust somebody to teach us to read and write. Yeah, Linda, she is amazing, she's got patience and we do everything online. We use Google Meet.

I wrote a book with Linda about my life growing up being unable to read. It was just an exercise in writing. We self-published it in a photo book and the Literacy Trust we work with published part of it in their magazine. Then it went crazy, I did interviews for the radio and newspaper articles, and I did a podcast for the BBC in London. It was so humbling! So, what I'm saying is anybody can read with the right help.

It's been a challenge for me and it hasn't been easy. It's been bloody hard. My biggest personal journey I ever had to do. The hardest thing is keeping motivated, keeping going. It is so easy to give up. I don't know how many times I thought about not doing anymore. Linda, she's a person I respect. So, Linda is helping me to write to you.

Keep going with your reading journey. We could talk if you would like, my phone number is _____ and my email address is _____.

Yours sincerely,

Michael

My Driving Test

On the day of my driving test, I was so excited, confused, scared, nervous – many other feelings. I was worried that I would do something wrong.

I was there early at 9.00 a.m. because I was worried. I prayed to keep calm.

I started the driving test at 9.25 a.m. and finished at 9.55 a.m. I met the supervisor. Her name is Josie. She told me about having confidence and following the rules. I tried to do everything she said. She told me about double-checking the mirrors before turning the car.

After the test, Josie said “Today you PASSED. Congratulations!” I was very surprised!!

By R



Dogs Should be On-lead in Public Spaces

Dogs should be on a lead where the signs actually say that they should be. A dog that is off a lead can scare other dogs that are on leads that may be on lead for a reason.

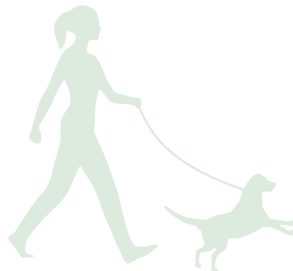
If dogs are on a leash for proper reasons like being aggressive, they should not be at the park where dogs are off leads. Some dogs don't get on with other dogs and need to be on a leash to stop them fighting. If you know that your dog is aggressive then you should keep it under control. It should be on a lead or you should leave if other dogs are around. If your dog is a harder dog to control it must go on a lead.

A loose dog can tease a dog on a lead and make it difficult to control. If your dog injures or attacks another dog it can be taken away or put down. It would be devastating for the owners. As well as, the owners might not realise that they have to pay for the vet bill, for having to put their dog down and fixing the other dog.

Dogs that are normally good should be allowed off lead. If a dog is being too aggressive, walk away from the situation or pull your own dog away. If your dog does not listen the best option is to pull it away before anything else happens.

I think that it would make it easier for everyone at a park if all dogs had their leads on. When in the zone for putting a lead on you should do it straight away because it can cause an accident if you do it too late.

By Alexia



Friday

It was supposed to be my day off, but I had to work because one of my colleagues was very sick, so somebody had to cover his shift. My manager called me on Thursday evening regarding this matter and nobody could cover Reynold's shift. Therefore, I worked on Friday.

Actually, I wanted to study my business finance all day on Friday as I felt a bit behind the schedule. But I changed my mind and thought that it could be a good thing. I could earn extra money so I could save more money, which is not a bad thing.

It was raining all day in Doubtful Sound and was very cold. I wore a rain jacket and gumboots all day. Even though, we could not see the lookout view all day due to bad weather conditions, everyone seemed so happy and excited which made me also good mood.

At the end of the day, I felt so tired, so I slept on Titiroa, which is the name of the vessel, for 45 minutes. I came home around 6:15pm and as soon as I came home, I logged into my computer and had an English lesson with Linda.

It was a very full-on day, but I had a great day on Friday.

By Sunshee



This is My Story

I am trying to learn to read. It is hard. I have been learning to read for about 11 months. I can read small words, but not big ones.

It is the sounds I have trouble with. I know the alphabet and the vowels: a, e, i, o, u, but my spelling is hopeless.

I have a great teacher. She comes to me at the library in Lincoln. Lincoln library is very helpful. They help me a lot, When I have a lesson, they reserve a place in the library for me and Caroline - my teacher. My teacher has a lot of patience with me.

I have improved a little. I think it has made me aware of all the world around me. I try to read then for practice, my teacher Caroline gives up her time to help me read.

It is hard work learning to read. My memory is no good. I am 74 years old. Maybe I am too old to do this, but there is still life in the 74-year-old yet.

By Grant



GHASTLY GNOMES

By Anonymous

This story is real. I have changed the names to protect the victims.

In Reporoa there was a girl named Emma. She loved to go motorbiking and horse riding. She also loved to read to her dogs as she didn't really have many friends.

One day Emma asked her mum if Mary, Emma's only friend, could come over. Lisa said "yes, she can." Emma, Mary and Lisa went to town to get some pumpkins to carve them for Halloween. Lisa said she wants to get some gnomes... not one, not two, not three but 150 gnomes! Emma and Mary just laughed.

They went back home where Lisa and Emma's step father, Todd, were getting ready. Emma asked what they were doing and Lisa replied that they were going to a Halloween party and that they would be back at midnight. Emma and Mary said goodbye to them both.

Emma and Mary were watching a movie and eating popcorn when they heard a noise. Mary asked if her mum was back but Emma said no, it's only 9:30pm, it's probably an animal.



At 10:30pm Mary and Emma were asleep when they heard a big crash in the bathroom. Emma grabbed the bat and told Mary to stay beside her. Emma looked into the bathroom and screamed and laughed. Mary asked what it was and Emma said that the gnomes had fallen over so they went back to the family room.

At 11:23pm Emma could hear people talking so she quietly tiptoed to the bathroom where she saw 149 gnomes huddled in a group on the floor. And then she saw the 150th on the sink, he was the leader and was talking to them about something she couldn't hear. Emma heard a rat noise coming from the kitchen pantry and looked away from the bathroom for a moment.

Emma could hear Mary trying to scream, and when she looked over she saw Mary was tied up and was staring at the bathroom door. Emma looked up at the door and saw two gnomes with rope, who then jumped off the door onto her and tied her up too. Then they took them to the outside sheds where they...

CHAPTER 2

...were laid down. The gnomes were telling them about how kids in the neighbourhood would kick them around and they wanted to get revenge. “You won’t get away with this!” cried Emma.

As the gnomes were talking to them about the plan, Mary was secretly trying to untie her ropes but she sat there until they were gone. As all of the gnomes left the room, gossiping excitedly about their good plan, Mary stood up and untied Emma and they both snuck out of the room. As they were sneaking back to Emma’s bedroom they whispered about their plan to get rid of the gnomes. Emma said maybe if we pretend to hate each other I will help the Gnomes and then trap them at our school. “That’s a great idea” whispered Mary.

The gnomes were in Emma’s lounge and they had lit candles and books on the floor. They were speaking in a language that Emma couldn’t understand.

Emma walked in and all the gnomes were surprised that she was standing there. Then she let the gnomes in on her plan. Emma lent in and said “Well I can get all the kids in the town and trap them in the school hall”. The gnomes got into a circle and talked about it. One of them turned around and asked if she was lying. Emma said “No I’m not, I want to help because I don’t have any friends.” The gnomes agreed to the plan.

CHAPTER 3

Meanwhile Mary was planning how to trap the gnomes. She decided to steal Lisa’s Holden Commodore, drive to the school and get everything prepared before the gnome’s arrival with Emma. When she turned up to the school she unpacked the firewood, gasoline and her lighter from the trunk.

CHAPTER 4

As the gnomes walked through the woods Emma asked why they hated the kids so much and the gnomes told her “Well, because they ruined our world years and years ago.” Emma then replied “How?”

The leader of the gnomes said “Well we were the first ever beings in this beautiful world, then one day humans came and killed our world, our trees our people we want to take our revenge.” Emma had tears in her eyes “We ruined your world and I am so sorry. If I was you, I would do that too.”

The leader of the gnomes wiped tears off his face as they arrived at the school.

Someone Who Means So Much To Me

I chose my mum because she is very kind towards me and cares for me when I'm down, for example she gives me a hug when I'm struggling. My mum is amazing because she talks to me totally about those problems.

My mum is a very intelligent lady. She is always interested in talking about our days or even how each of us are. She knows a lot and she is seriously smart. She helps me with heaps of different subjects, cooking and she used to help in primary to do my homework. Mum makes really good nachos.

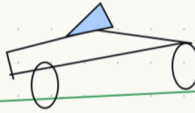
My mum has beautiful brown straight hair with blue eyes, and she is also very tanned. She used to have all her ears pierced but then they closed up. She works in an office in Huntly. Mum does payroll for the workers on Wednesdays. Every weekday she wears a flowing top with a singlet underneath with black pants.

My mum is always there for me, through my ups and downs. She is always there to chat and makes sure everything is all better. I'm so glad she can tell everything is alright so then I don't take it (get upset or mad) out on someone else or myself. If I overthink things, I can't control my emotions. When we talk it helps me feel less stressed or unhappy.

If I ever become a mother, I want to be just like mine so then I can check on the family if they are having problems with people's opinions or hate comments. When you have a lot of people in your household it can be difficult. Especially when getting home having to cook or do the whole lot, like picking up everyone's rubbish. For example, like lolly wrappers, or clothing on the floor. Mum says "UGHH".

By Alexia





The car is blue and the cat is black
The dog is brown. And the grass is green
And the house is white. The black cat was going to his white house in blue car
and he saw green grass at the house.



My holidays
On Friday last week was my first
Day of the holidays because I had
go for a eeg so that why I get one
day extra.today me and my
grandmother went on a bike ride
was good we went to a skatepark.

SNAPSHOTS OF RURAL LIFE

By J



A Trip to Whangarei to Buy Calves

We bought 35 calves. Seven of them are mine. They are black and white faced and red and white Hereford Cross Friesian. The rest of them are Murray Grey Cross Friesian, which are David's and Aimee's. 28 for them, 7 for us. On the farm where we bought the calves, they had two horses in a stable. They are show horses that compete in dressage. The kids got a lamb. It is five days old and they have to feed him three hourly. The lamb's name is Lambo. The kids love Lambo. And the dogs get on well with Lambo too.

Arrival of the Calves

The calves came from Whangarei to Wellsford, 35 of them. It took the truck driver 9 hours to get to us. The calves were hungry and thirsty and they were very skittish. We fed them and gave them a drink.

Call out for the Vet. We had two calves that the vet had to look at. The vet said they had an infection from the umbilical cord.

They had to have an injection for seven days. The vet showed us how to give the injection to the calves. You tap the calf on the back three times and give the injection. It was very hard for my wife Ann and I to get the calves in the cattle yard for their injections. The calves were not happy to have it done.

Drenching Time

We all took part in getting the calves into the corral for drenching. First, we had to weigh them for the correct dose, and then we had to pour the drench on to the back of the calves.

We had one calf that had a sore leg. The calf was limping. We had the vet take a look at the calf and he said he has a broken leg, and he had to put the calf down. It was a sad day for us and the family.

Drenching Again

It is time to drench again. We got the calves into the corral for drenching. We had a lot of trouble getting one calf into the corral. The calf would not go in. We had to push it into the corral. David, our son-in-law, brought a wand that reads the weight of the calves. The name tag tells you if the calves have gained weight. You also then know the correct dose to give each calf. We then poured the drench on the back of each calf.



The Arrival of Four New Lambs

David and Aimee brought four lambs to keep Lambo (the pet lamb) happy. The lambs are black faced lambs. Lambo is not interested in them. He thinks he is a dog. Lambo started eating Ann's vege garden. He ate the tomatoes and the carrots. Ann was very, very, very cross with him. She quickly put up a fence to stop him from eating the vege garden.

Runaway Lambs

Four lambs escaped from Melda's paddock into Paul's paddock. Paul's gate was open and the lambs went out the gate and on to the road. The neighbour said, "Your lambs are on the road heading to Paul's." We all went up to Paul's looking for the lambs. It was getting dark and hard to see.

A while later, David's dog flushed out three of them and the fourth one jumped the fence and broke his leg, so we had to put him down. Our neighbour Garth helped us to process the lamb for the freezer. It took a long time to process him. It was sad that we had to do it.



Building a Chicken Hutch

My wife, Ann, and I made a chicken hutch. We had two chickens given to us. They are brown shavers. We have four chickens now and we had to make a hutch big enough. We made the hutch out of old wood and roofing iron. We cut the wood to the size and attached the wood to the side of the existing chicken coop. We put the iron on and made four nesting boxes and a ramp to get up to the nesting boxes. The chickens are happy and laying eggs now.

The Troughs

My wife Ann and I cleaned out the troughs on the farm and found blue bits of possum bait in two troughs, not good. So, we are cleaning all the troughs now and putting gravel around the troughs to stop the mud. Ann had fun driving the tractor, loading the bucket with gravel and spreading it around the troughs. We pumped out the water from the troughs with a great little pump. It was so easy to use. We had a lot of fun working together.



The Swarm

My sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Kevin and Melda, were outside making a kid's boat to play in and they heard a loud buzzing noise. There was a black cloud overhead. Kevin said, "It is a swarm of bees, they are attached to a tree". Kevin and Melda are allergic to bees. They ran for cover and called for a beekeeper. The bee swarm was about one metre round and growing. The beekeeper came and took half the swarm and said he will be back for the rest at a later date. In the meantime, the boat building is on hold.

Kaiaua

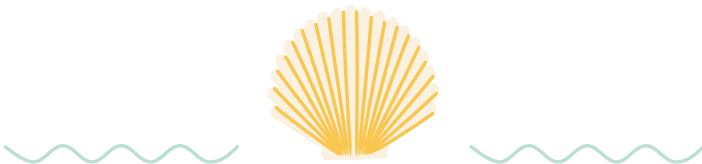
Kaiaua is a place where my family and I go to visit my nan. Kaiaua is a small town beside a shelly beach. Where me and my family go to swim or do some fishing. The beach is very calm, so you can see the fish super easy. When we catch the fish, we gut it then we take it back to my nan's to cook for dinner.

We help her cook the food, me and my cousins have to make all the salads. Well, all my aunties cook the fish and the meat then when we are done my sisters set up the table. Then we sit down around the table and we eat and talk. When we are done, me and my cousins do the dishes. When we are done with the dishes we have a little rest and we wait for 12 at night so we can go eeling.

We have to wait till midnight because that is when the eels come out. me and one of my cousins get all of the stuff ready for tonight. We get the bait, hand lines, knife, a bucket and some smelly chum. Once we are ready we go for a long walk to the river. When we are there we get the chum and throw it in the water. Then we put a piece of bait on the hook and throw that in the water near the chum. Once we hook on an eel it's a little bit hard to bring in because it does a crocodile roll. That's why it's good to wear a glove because it could give you rope burn then when you get the eel in to land you stab it in the head to kill it.

There was this one time when me and my cousin went eeling and it took us 15 minutes to bring it in. I had to jump into the water and kill it in the water because the line was tangled into a log in the water. So, when I killed and took it into land I had to go back in the water to untangle the line. When we walked back to my nan's house my uncle smoked the eel but I have never tasted it before.

By AJ



shopping list

- Peas
- ~~Oregano~~
- Carrots
- Celery
- Onions
- Tomato Paste
- Tomato Purée
- Olive oil
- Spaghetti
- Beef mince
- pork mince
- Red Wine
- _____



By Cassie

The Legendary Diamongonex!

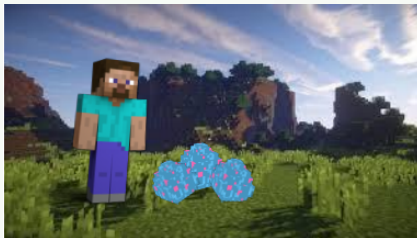
These mythical creatures or entities are powerful godlike creatures that can kill the all mighty Warden in just 2 to 3 hits. The Diamongonex sadly went extinct. A player named Royal Scorcher killed so many of these creatures just for their diamond skin. This is why he is the richest player ever. He dumped all their heads in a hole with a fossil from the queen Diamongonex, who was also killed by Royal.

He killed them all with the most powerful weapon ever. It was known as the OP block but I was able to find three more Diamond Shiny Eggs hidden in an ocean monument. The Diamongonex is a very clever creature and I guess one hid its eggs in the ocean so their species could go on forever more.

The diamond-like creatures are indeed tameable and can be ridden. You can command them to fight monsters for you and you can also control whatever direction the fireball can be shot.

Even though they are really useful to have as pets, Royal was really greedy and went along and hunted all of them to extinction although that's what he thought. One of them was smart enough to hide their eggs so their kind can live on forever more and that's the story of these legendary creatures.

Anonymous



Hope

I have been thinking and hoping, that one day I will study for a Diploma or a Degree.

I already have a Level 4 in Health Care and Wellbeing.

Lately, I have been having these thoughts to study towards a higher qualification. I am very tempted to go for it. I'm just too scared or don't have the confidence to do it.

I lack in my literacy and numeracy skills. It worries me, because my writing and literacy is not good. And it also scares me that I might fail.

By Anita



Living Without Literacy

When I was young I had trouble talking. I stuttered, nobody could understand me, I was born with a short tongue.

At school I got teased, and the teachers couldn't understand me. When I asked them to teach me to read and write they just put me in the too-hard basket. So, I was left to my own ways, helping the caretaker with jobs was my school day.

When I was 14, I left school and got a job at the local Paua factory and there was no writing or reading involved. I left there and got a job in the forestry industry. All the jobs that I picked had no reading or writing.

The jobs that I chose were farming, spraying, cray fishing, or in commercial kitchens doing dishes. During these years I was able to get my driver's, my motorbike, and my heavy trade vehicle licence, as well as passenger, forklift and loader endorsements on my driver's licence I also got my open water diving certificate. But the hardest job I had was with Meridian.

By Michael



Annoyed

I attended a wedding on Friday. I had so much fun, until my aunty started acting funny and weird. That really annoyed me.

The comments she was making were really hurtful, yet I did not let it get to me. But, last night I felt really annoyed with her. I had flashbacks and I really wanted to hurt my auntie's feelings.

During the night she was saying a few words that really made me question her. My aunty was like a different woman. I could see the hateful, disgusting looks she would give. The evil smile she had on. It was like I was dealing with two different people.

I respect my aunty, but there is no love or bond between us, which is okay.

Acknowledgement

As I sit here and think back to that night, the night I felt all these emotions, I do not regret anything. I am not holding any grudges. I enjoyed myself at the end of the day.

We cannot choose our family. My aunty will always exist. I cannot thank her for anything, but I do acknowledge her. May she find joy and peace as we carry on with life and become strangers once again.

It was nice knowing her and meeting for a brief moment.

Anonymous



My Mum is Such a Beautiful Lady

I want to talk about my mum, today. She is a 73-year-old lady who is super positive and always laughs at so many small things. Her favourite colour is green and she loves travelling around Korea and overseas. She also likes playing golf with my dad and catching up with her friends at local cafes.

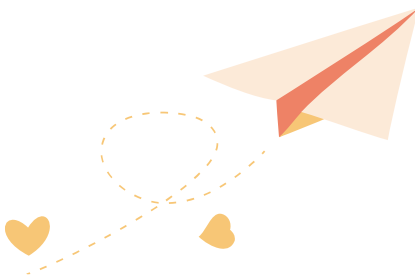
My mum got married when she was 24 and it was quite normal to get married around that age, particularly for women. She used to work in a tailor's shop as a Tailor in her sister's shop.

My aunt introduced my dad to my mum and my dad was one of my aunt's regular customers. They really liked each other at the first sight and after 6 months, they got married and had three children who are my older sister, me, and a younger brother.

My mum is such a beautiful lady inside and out. She is a very warm and kind woman, who is willing to help other people when they are in need. She has a great sense of humour, and it makes our family special.

I love my mum so much and respect her deeply. She is like my best friend, and I can talk about anything and everything. I feel she is the one who truly understands me more than anybody else.

By Sunshee



CAMP

By Leah

On a cold, foggy Friday, Krystal and I put our bags into Nan's car and she started to drive us to Rotorua City Centre. Nan dropped us off and we said our goodbyes. We sat under the shelter and listened out for names to be called out by the camp leaders.

We waited 15 minutes and then we heard "Krystal, Leah from Reporoa College?" "Yes" we both yelled out. Kiley, one of the many workers, told us we were in van 3. We drove off to a small town with no cell service, only peace and quiet.

We arrived at the camp and Koro, the camp's owner, gave us a long talk to introduce the staff and some history about them. They finally told us to put our stuff away and come back so we could go to the lake. Krystal and I ran to the cabins where we threw our stuff on the top bunks so we could reserve them. Belle and Hayley, the two other girls from our school who came in a different car, were in the bunks below us.

Amelia was another camp leader who told us to "pack a day bag, with togs, towels and warm clothes". We were so confused as to why, what were we doing, why do we need our togs? All these questions were going through our heads.



Krystal, Belle, Hayley, Caleb, Carlos and I were okay with going into the water and the funny thing is that we all came from Reporoa where it's the countryside and all the other kids didn't want to go swimming because they came from the city side.

We walked back with our day bags to where everyone was standing. They told us that we had to go into the vans and that it would be a 5 min drive from where we were. Once we arrived we got out of the vans and we got separated into four groups of 16. Krystal and I were crossing our fingers that we could be in the same group, but sadly Amelia split us up. But then luckily there was a change. Krystal's group had too many people and mine had not enough, so she was allowed to swap.

Our first activity was kayaking. We dragged our kayak into the winter water and we carefully stepped into a double kayak. Our leader had told us we had to do some challenges. Our first challenge was to switch places with the other person in the kayak. I stood up slowly and turned to face the back of the kayak where Krystal was sitting.



I felt unstable and wobbly so I tried to stand up straight when I felt a hand on my leg holding on tight. I stepped too far and face planted into the freezing cold water. I came back up to the surface screaming how cold the water was. I saw everyone laughing so I joined in too, cause at the end of the day it was pretty funny. We spent all day doing fun activities when Koro told us to pack up and hop back into the vans.

Before we left, I grabbed my stuff. I went down to the lake and saw how calm it was when no one was in the water. I then heard Krystal call my name to come back to the vans to head back to the camp.

When we got back it was first in first served for the showers. I ran back to my cabin like my life depended on it and grabbed all my stuff but when I got to the showers it looked like everyone had the same idea.

Minutes went past so slowly, and next in line was me, "Finally" I sighed as I picked up my toiletry bag and started the shower. It was so refreshing. After a considerably short shower, I got dressed and headed to the dining room for dinner, a fun talk or I should say THE RULES!

The leaders told us to get into a big circle and play a game to get to know each other's names. We all clapped to a beat and each one of us did a dance move to our name. I was last and shy but I still gave it a go and did a little movement and everyone copied and said "Kotahitanga".

I got to meet a lot of new people like Rosa, Rhody, Mikey and more. At first, we were all shy and scared but we all got to know each other because of the new games and became friends with a lot of people and got to know about their school and a lot about them.

After dinner we said our prayers and went to bed or as they thought we did we ended up talking and laughing all night.

As you can guess they were not happy. 6 am the next morning I was tired at the start of the day wishing I could go back to bed every second.

We ate breakfast and got our day bags packed and then got into the vans and then headed back to the water. Day 2 tiredness kicked in every step and made me want to go back to bed, I felt like I was about to pass out.

As you may be thinking, what did you do last night? Well the answer is, talking. At 4am there were two earthquakes. I thought we were going to fall as I was on the top bunk once it stopped we all went back to sleep. “Wake up girls” loudly said one of the camp leaders “no 5 more minutes” most of us said. “We need you guys to get up and pack. We have a big day today”.



As we had our routine it was sleep, eat and back to the nice cold water. Once we came back with peeling skin from sunburns, we all sat down in the hall we were in lines and well there were speeches not from us but from guests to talk about how they were once a leader and now they have grown it really showed me a lot.

At 2 pm we were done. One of the leaders, Koro, told us we were doing a chant in our groups. At first, we had no idea what we were gonna do. We came up with the best chant we could have thought of. “Don’t worry I did try and find the video of our chant but I couldn’t find it”. Anyways we pretended to be the leaders and we thought i was pretty funny. We ended it with NGO NGO NGO ON TOP and a haka. Even though I was so nervous I gave it my all and well... WE WON!!! 1st but we did say a good game to everyone else. “Okay everyone let’s get a group to say a blessing before we eat” It was Reporoa’s turn to say a blessing. This is the one I used.

*He Honore
He hōnore, he korōria
Maungārongo ki te whenua
Whakaaro pai e
Kingā tangata katoa
Ake ake, ake ake
Āmine
Te Atua, te piringa,
Toku oranga*

*Honour, glory and
peace to the land
May good thoughts come
to all men
for ever and ever, for ever and ever.
Amen.
The Lord is the refuge
and my life.*

We ate our dinner and then Koro stood up, Krystal and I looked at each other thinking she gave the oh no look.

“We are going to be sleeping out there”. Koro pointed to the bush “ohhh can I go with my friends” was everyone’s first question. I didn’t mind the fact we would be under the stars with bugs. I only cared if me and Krystal would be with each other.

“Get your things and we will pick the groups. So, NO GIRLS AND BOYS TOGETHER” he said in a deep voice. As I was put in the opposite group of Krystal we said goodbye like we were leaving for the war.

I was with other friends and she was with some of her friends we made at the camp. I was cuddling with three other girls and well I was warm. But something was crawling on top of our sleeping bag, we put the torch on it and well it was a huge possum. Ah!

After a while of laughing, crying and having a blast as they say. We all ended up falling asleep.

What only felt like five minutes of sleep, which was actually five hours later, we heard Koro yelling out.

“All right everybody, up, come on, get up!”. 35 teens getting up early in the morning, you should know what that looks like if you have teenagers. We packed up our bags and got our stuff back to the camp, and dropped everything at the doorway and ran to our beds.

“No, our day is not ending here, collect all of your belongings and get them ready to be put in the vans.”. We all did what Koro said. Once we were finished, we stood in a circle outside the cabins saying our last blessings for the day.

Then it was silent so I nervously stood up and said “on behalf of Reporoa College we would like to thank you for having us and teaching us some inspiring things, teaching us about our past and history.”



Each school did this until we all got into vans and drove back to the Rotorua Centre.

Krystal and I waited for my mum for a few minutes. I spotted a small van. And seeing my mum I hugged everyone I met and was sad to say goodbye but I met some nice, kind people.

To this day I always see my friends from camp and see them a lot so I would like to say I'm so glad I signed up for the weekend. And just give a reminder to always put yourself out there.

Disaster Turns Into a Compliment

One day my friend wanted to visit me. I wanted to cook fried chicken with soft jasmine rice, and eclairs with chocolate topping for dessert. First, I cooked jasmine rice in the rice cooker, but accidentally I put in too much water, and that made the rice mushy. That was a disaster, so I mashed the rice and wrapped it in a banana leaf then boiled it, drained it in the colander then cooled it. It became beautiful Lon tong or rice cake.

Second, I cooked fried chicken with sambal. When I fried the chicken, I just realised the element on the stove was overheating and that made my chicken dry on the outside and undercooked inside. That was a disaster, so with that chicken I made chicken curry with coconut cream. That was delicious because the chicken was well cooked and had a nice flavour after being fried.

Third I made eclairs for the dessert. I made them with my daughter. She accidentally put the flour in too early and that made the dough runny instead of firm. So, I couldn't put it in the oven because it wouldn't rise properly. Churros have the same ingredients as eclairs, but they are deep fried instead of being baked. So, I put the disaster dough in the piping bag then shaped it and deep fried it. And served the churros with chocolate sauce. They were delicious.

So, I made beautiful Lon tong, chicken curry, and churros with chocolate sauce. That was a very nice combination. My friend and my family loved it all. They showered me with compliments because the food was delicious.

By N



Fishing Trip to Marokopa Beach

My family and I went to Marokopa beach for a one-day fishing trip. Marokopa is a small town. It's on the West coast. The closest town is Waitomo Caves.

This is the first trip for this year, because the weather was not good. Last year we went twenty times, and had a good weather forecast. Before we go, we check the weather forecast and tide times. Then we decide the day and time. Mostly we go in summer time.

We have to take food and water as well. We have to check everything before we go, because it's a long way to go and a rural area. No shops or no phone connection.

Fishing is a fun sport, because all of my family like to catch fish. We surfed cast by the river mouth before the tide gets in.

We caught a lot of Kahawai fish. They weighed two to three kg each. We shared extra the fish with the village people, because we have known them for twelve years.

After fishing, we had our lunch, had a nap and returned home safely.

Anonymous



Earthquake in Taiwan

In the morning on third of April, the earthquake happened to East of Taiwan where is called Hualien, 7.4 magnitude, shook back and forth, already caused people death, trapped in buildings and got injured.

The building leaned on the side of road, additionally residential area inside the house got messy, because of stuff falling down from shelves, it was very dangerous for humans.

The situation compared with twenty-five years ago, the destroyed one was well known by Taiwanese, was called 921 that was a biggest than it. On top of that, people were killed by strong earthquake.

The location was in the middle of Taiwan, happened mountain moved away to other side, building felt down, looked like ruin the place. At that time, had 2000 people death. It happened at midnight, everyone rushed out from home. Very scared and unsafe.

The power of nature is very strong, when something happens, I hope everyone can stay safe.

By May



Dear Friend

Dear friend,

Thankyou for inviting me for dinner with your family. It was a really good time to get to know your family. I really enjoyed it. Your parents are very nice and kind. It would be hard for them to understand some of the things we talked about, as my English was not fluent. However, they were so patient and tried to understand my intentions. I am really grateful for their kindness.

Another thing that I liked was your mother's garden. The vegetables looked great and the flowers were gorgeous. Your mum must be a hard-working person. I could see that she puts a lot of work into her gardening. She also has lots of experience and knowledge, so I learned a lot about gardening from her, which I definitely will try someday. It was really interesting.

Thank you again for having me. I would like to take you to my favourite Korean restaurant sometime. Please let me know when you are available. Please say thank you to your family and I will see you soon.

Best wishes.

By J



My Diary

On Sunday morning at eight-thirty my teacher Sam and I went to the supermarket.

Sam wrote the shopping list in advance.

We went in and bought lots of vegetables and dairy.

We talked about Sam's dog during the shopping. Then Sam took me to the nearby farmers market and bought some fruits.

I learned the names of all kinds of food and utensils. Such as: trolley, soda syrup and dog treats.

Today is a very happy day.

By Jackson



Buzzwee

Ruby is my cat, but we mostly call her Buzzwee. She's very loud for such a small cat. She is loud all the time, she is never quiet. No matter how loud she can be, I don't mind her yelling in my ears.

Not even food will fill her vocal void. She loves food so much that she will never shut up about it. When she doesn't get her breakfast on time she will hunt you down and start intimidating you.

Her intimidation gets me out of bed even though it's my sleep-in day. "Shhhhh Buzzwee" I tell her, "go back to bed". But she never listens! I don't mind though because she's my little BabyKins.

By G



NEW CALEDONIA TRIP



By B

Last month, I had a chance to travel to New Caledonia. It was the first time I had travelled overseas to a foreign country from New Zealand, so I was excited about this trip.

Because I work as a food auditor, my job requires me to travel a lot. Our head office in Auckland oversees auditing in multiple restaurants in the Pacific area which include New Zealand, Fiji, New Caledonia, and Samoa. For this round, my boss assigned me to travel to New Caledonia to audit four restaurants.

As I only have a New Zealand Residency visa, I had to submit a travelling visa application for my trip. First, I filled in my information on the French Embassy website and then booked an appointment with them in Wellington for an interview.

New Caledonia is an independent country, but it is one of the French islands in the Pacific area, and the French government has control of it. Thus, the French Embassy in Wellington has the authority for visa approval.

In my application, I had to provide documents to explain the purpose and plans for my stay in New Caledonia. This process took more than two weeks.

While waiting for my visa approval, I found out some details about my destination such as currency, hotel, cuisine, and culture as well as local people and several places where I could visit when I had free time.

On 25th February, I received my traveling visa. I bought the flight tickets from Air New Zealand and booked a hotel near the restaurants and the shuttle service at Noumena airport. On 19th March, I left my house at 4 am to get the earliest flight from Christchurch to Auckland airport. Waking up early annoyed me, but I had no option.

The flights from NZ to NC are only twice per week and all flights must transit at Auckland so it requires departing quite early in the morning. Around 7 am, I arrived in Auckland and walked to the international airport to get the second flight to New Caledonia. I could have taken the airport bus from the domestic arrival to the international departure, but I chose to walk because I needed the exercise.

Besides, it was not too far, and it took only 10 minutes. Maybe the same time to get the bus due to waiting time.

Because of a 3-hour flight, the plane provided a small computer tablet that travellers could use to kill time during the flight. I did not use the tablet, as I slept all the time because I was tired due to the early awake.

My boss had told me I would be served a meal on the plane, but it was only a snack. I did not prepare enough food and I was very hungry. Fortunately, two nearby passengers gave me some food. They were French and they were visiting their son in New Caledonia. We only talked a little because they could not speak English well while I could not speak French.

Arriving at Noumea airport, I had to spend time around 30 minutes with security staff checking passports and luggage declarations.

Afterward, I quickly found the agency to buy a Wi-Fi pocket for all my trips here. Then I caught the shuttle to get to the hotel. I cannot imagine how far it was. It took one long hour from the airport to the hotel called "Le Meridien". I was a bit disappointed at the long travel time.

Nevertheless, the hotel was beautiful and luxurious. At the front of the hotel was a magnificent waterfall which was even more amazing at night with a lot of colourful lights.

The back of the hotel had a big clean swimming pool and many tall, green coconut trees. And my hotel owned a long, blue beach with rippling waves and beautiful white sand. Unfortunately, I did not swim any time during my stay because I cannot swim. I have attached a picture of the hotel.

Because of hunger, I ordered a meal including chips and chicken nuggets which looked like a kid's portion. How expensive it was! I paid 1800 CFX which was equivalent to \$28. I enjoyed my meal where my table overlooked the beautiful beach. I felt peaceful and lonely and just wished my kids could have been there. Then I got to my room and slept nearly one hour before the first audit.

The first restaurant was not too far from my hotel, so I decided to walk instead of calling a taxi. Also, this was a chance to go sightseeing. I walked around 20 minutes and started my first audit at 3 pm. Although the area manager was French, he could speak English, while all the staff only spoke a little bit.



It was advantageous for me to communicate with him during the visit. The restaurant was quite big and well organized. My duration was nearly 2 and a half hours and they met the standards.

After that, I informed the manager about my audit schedule and would see him the next day in the three remaining restaurants. I left at 5:30 pm and walked along the beach to come back to the hotel. This period here was a dry season so it was quite hot and humid with a temperature of 290°C. I loved this weather because it reminded me of my hometown in Vietnam.

There were a lot of people who were sitting, walking, and swimming on the beach. Some of them were local people whom I could recognize by their dark skin, some were travellers and others I guessed were French who had lived there for a long time.

On the way, I made a video call with my children to show them about New Caledonia. They were excited and wished that they could travel with me next time. My son would love to swim on the beach.

I intended that I would walk down that night to taste local food. Around 7 pm, I walked back to the street and found some restaurants. How surprising it was. There was a Vietnamese restaurant. I guessed that there must be a Vietnamese community as well.

A bar on the beach was quite crowded and had noisy music and it was not my cup of tea. Finally, I chose one restaurant called the Steakhouse where I enjoyed steak cooked on the hot stone, delicious!



The restaurant owner told me that she had to keep the stones in the oven at 4000°C within 24 hours before serving. OMG!

I ordered beef grilled on the stone and some salad with green beans. It was juicy, tender, and the smell was so good. I loved it.

After the meal, I continued to walk around to burn my energy to keep my body fit. This area was not large and busy. Some restaurants closed early. I went back to the hotel around 9:30 pm and slept early for three audits the next day.

I had a day with three audits that made me tired. Each audit took two and a half hours. I had more than eight hours total for that day. I felt exhausted and only wanted to sleep as soon as possible. But thinking about the next day I felt excited because it was my day off and I had a chance to go sightseeing.

After a long sleep, I woke up early for sightseeing. Because NC was quite small, I decided to walk all the time. I visited the local market which sold ready-to-eat food, fruit, seafood, and souvenirs.

I bought 'Nem' for my breakfast and a banana and avocado for my lunch. I found that Nem is quite like the spring roll of Vietnamese food. I enjoyed them.



Then I looked around the seafood market. The market there had a lot of kinds of seafood: big crabs, huge lobsters, and fresh fish. Unfortunately, my hotel did not allow me to cook in my room, if not I would have bought some.

Next, I walked to Coconut Square. It looked like a park with multiple trees, but I could not find any coconut trees. Ridiculous! Then I walked along the street to arrive at the Aquarium Museum where I waited to see the marine ecosystem.

Amazing! I could see everything in the sea. Sea worms with a strange appearance were hiding in the colourful coral. Opposite were clear jellies that swam up and down and created a beautiful and mysterious scene.

In another room, I thought I was in the amazing seabed where each school of fish is swimming freely.

Furthermore, I was attracted to sea turtles. The big turtles swam excitedly into the clear water. Sometimes, they stopped and looked at me as a strange creature standing to watch them attentively. I spent time for a while finding out about the marine world. Then I continued back to the hotel. The next day, I would fly to CHCH. My kids were waiting for me. The shuttle service picked me up at 5 am and I got an early flight at 7 am.

I believe that I will miss NC and hope that I can visit again.

LET US HELP YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

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There is nowhere in New Zealand that is too far away for us to help you.

Get in touch with us for a friendly and confidential chat.



Rural Youth &
Adult Literacy Trust

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