

Inbound Student Exchange

Kurashiki (Japan) - Christchurch (NZ)

2006

This year the group visited Christchurch for the annual Student Goodwill Exchange from **Sun 23 July - Monday 7 August 2006**. There were 14 students averaging 14 & 15 years old, plus two leaders. They spent 16 days in Christchurch for their visit.

The leaders were **Taeko YOKOYAMA** and **Miho AKAGI**, two lovely ladies from Kurashiki. Taeko was a staff member at City Hall and Miho was a Student at Notre



Dame Seishin University in Kurashiki. It was interesting to find out that Miho was a 14 year

Civic Welcome with Councillor Shearing old student in the 2000 student exchange from Kurashiki and had now returned as the assistant leader..

The visitors were introduced to their hosts at the airport and then spent the rest of the weekend with their hosts.

Civic Welcome

The first official activity for the group was the **Civic Reception** at the Civic Offices on Monday morning. **Cr Bob Shearing** welcomed the members of the delegation on behalf of the city and followed this with the ever popular group photo in the Mayors reception area.

The group then went on our usual and popular inner city walking tour for the rest of the day. This included a trip on the yellow shuttle bus, a climb up the

Cathedral spire, a Tram ride, a walk around Victoria Square and finally an hour spare to create havoc in the duty free shops in Colombo Street.

Homestay Hosts

This year we had 9 girls and 5 boys (compared with 13 girls and one boy last year). Our ability of using all our 2006 outbound students as hosts were dashed.

However, with some frantic phoning of the 2005 outbound male members and their friends, we finally received a 100% coverage.

As it worked out, all but two of the 14 hosts would either be travelling to Kurashiki in our 2006 Outbound Group OR attended in 2005. This added to the enthusiasm amongst the hosts and their families.

English Language Sessions

This year, we introduced, at the suggestion of Kurashiki City Hall, **three** English Language Sessions on three of the mornings. These replaced three days that were normally reserved for school attendance. The visits listed below took place in the afternoons.

We were very fortunate in having **Dianne Heslop**, (a local kiwi lady who had spent 10 years in Japan teaching English) available to lead these sessions. These sessions were exceptionally well received by the leaders and the students. They covered some basic English language issues, medical lessons, money issues and fun visits to the Mall with interviews of local people. Preparation of how to do post cards, birthday cards and many other interesting topics were also enjoyed.



School Days

For the three School days, Tuesday, At Marian College

Wednesday and Thursday in the second week, the students attended the high school classes, with their buddy, where they experienced a variety of classes and lessons.

These varied from school to school, but mostly included English, Japanese, Gymnastics, Music, Social Studies, History, Mathematics, Drama and Cultural classes. The leaders along with Newton and Cheryl, visited each school during the last day. We spent time in each class observing and talking to the student and their buddy. The language teachers in the schools were all very co-operative and pleased that the students had visited their school. The leaders presented a small Japanese gift to each school at the conclusion of their visit.

At St Bedes College for the day



The host schools this year were Cashmere High School, Christchurch

Boys High School, Villa Maria College, Marian College, & St Bedes College.

Family Night

This year the group were treated to a night at 'Caddy Shack' mini golf (known to the Japanese students as 'Putt Putt Golf'). This was played on the Monday night to enable the centre to make the venue available to us exclusively. We invited all the visitors as well as their buddy hosts along with all the members of their host family. We charged the host adults \$10 for the evening and supper but all the visitors, buddies and children were complimentary.

The venue was ideal for mixing with the visitors and locals with a few surprises in the scores. The evening was designed to



be a fun night for the visitors and it did just that, as well as a great night for the locals too. A very reasonably priced light supper was provided by the centre.

Putt, Putt, Putt ...Oh!

Some prizes were

awarded at the farewell function for the efforts on the night.

Farm Visit

We hired a 'Coach' and driver from Travlon Coachlines to visit **Kapuranga Farm** in Springston, where the visitors were introduced to 7 day old lamb feeding, llama, sheep shearing and wool spinning.

Isn't she sweet?
Down at the farm.



The faces of the visitors were a blessing to be seen when they were given a close up view and a hands on try at clipping the fleece of a sheep. An excellent 'Farm Style Afternoon Tea' was served afterwards. A quick walk through Mona Vale grounds to feed the ducks was also enjoyed on the way back to the Windermere Centre.

Snow Trip

We planned this for the first week to allow for alternative days if the weather was not good. This years weather was perfect and the kids and leaders really did enjoy the time at Porter heights. Many had their first ever visit to a ski field, and some of the lads had a great day on snow boards. The full costs of this day trip were met by the students direct to the conveners.



The Ski Field was OPEN this year.

A trip like this is an absolute must for these

young people.

Sight Seeing Trips

We arranged five sightseeing days where the visitors were treated to a variety of visits and activities.

These included a afternoon visit to the Air Force World, and the Antarctic Centre where the students had a hands on visit to the 'snow storm' room. As usual the students spent up well in the shops at the exits.



Willowbank Wildlife Sanctuary

Willowbank Wildlife Centre included a visit to the Kiwi House

and a leisurely walk around the farm animals at the Sanctuary filled another afternoon

A valuable visit to Northlands Mall for 50 mins proved very popular with the visitors finding the 'Just \$2 Shop' and the 'Supermarket' sweets isle.

One other full day afternoon was spent on a day trip to our usual QE11, New Brighton Pier and Sumner Cave Rock. We finished the day with a quick visit to Lyttelton, Halswell Quarry Park and Kurashiki Gardens.

The final day was a treat to travel on the



normal Metro Bus System, with each student travelling to They travelled on a local METRO BUS

the city, visiting the Arts Centre to make bead necklace's and bangles. This proved a very exciting new addition to the programme.



Bead Craft shop. What a time!

They then visited the Museum, Environment Centre and yet another hour in the Duty Free Shops in Colombo St and Cathedral Square.

Farewell Party

On the final Sunday evening, the group attended a huge Farewell Party at the Woolston Club.



The Boys perform at the farewell

A total of 92 people attended the evening which included a huge buffet meal, a couple of exciting song and dance items by our visitors and a puppetry item by our local Puppet Pirate.

We concluded the evening with a few speeches of farewell.



Puppet Performance

The Hosts said their farewells to the students before they were whisked away to their Hotel by the Airport, for the night and the early get-away to Japan on the next day.



The meal and dessert was great

The flight in Auckland was delayed, which meant they were 2 hours late arriving in Kansai and into Kurashiki at about midnight. (18 hrs of travel and waiting)

Leaders Programme

The activities provided for the group leaders was supplemented by the offers of help from Malcolm Harris and David Bolam-Smith.

The leaders were taken on a variety of activities and visits during their stay by their hosts. Cheryl took one leader for a week and City Council Staff shared the other times as Homestay Hosts.

Rotary Exchange Student

As part of a reciprocal arrangement, we again hosted the on-ground activities of one member of the Kojima East Rotary Club of Kurashiki, who travelled with our inbound group on the flight. The Burnside-Bishopdale Rotary Club in Christchurch was the host club for this student and all direct costs for the visitor was paid for by the Rotary Club.

We plan to use this system for the Christchurch Rotary student attending Kurashiki in September 2006 with our outbound group.



Ready to go at the airport

Thanks

My thanks to Cheryl who put in many hours of detailed work planning the details of the visit and bookings for the venues.

Thank you too to Barbara who acted as a think tank and KCH liaison, during the planning period and to the members of the committee who did support the visit by attending the farewell dinner and function and mixed with the visitors.

For the Committee

Newton Dodge & Cheryl Thorne

Project Conveners

August 2006



Leader Taeko, in natural habitat at Willowbank.