

CHRISTCHURCH-KURASHIKI INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WITH DISABILITY EXCHANGE 9-18 MARCH 2009



Once again we had two wonderful students and caregivers.

The participants were:

Yoko Kadono 17 and her caregiver Ayako Kadono

Yoshie Okamoto 16 and her mother Reiko

Yoko has cerebral palsy and was on occasion in a wheelchair and Yoshi had suffered a stroke. Both girls were inspirational and Yoko especially never stopped smiling even when exhaustion was setting in.

Itinerary

We had an extremely varied programme. I tried to build in quite a bit of free time but often that got eaten up by the girls requests for extra activities. Sometimes therefore the girls were very tired and could have done with more free time. The exchange was a day or two less this time as well because of flights.

Activities included

- City tour and Tram ride
- Punting on the Avon
- Hokey Pokey Ice creams
- Antarctic Centre with an up close and personal penguin visit
- Riccarton Mall
- Lunch at Committee's house
- Civic Welcome
- Eilerslie Flower Show
- Fudge Cottage tour

- Willowbank Kotane concert
- Akaroa Day Trip (Canterbury Cat cruise)
- Hillmorton High School Visit
- Attendance and participation in Jolt Dance Class
- Visit to New Brighton, Sumner, ride on the Gondola
- Athletics at QEII
- Southern Centre
- Dinner with Independent Fisheries



Committee Members

I am indebted to my team of helpers who really made the exchange the success it was. You all know who you are and I am eternally grateful for your help and support.

In addition Matt found us two superb translators in Mari and Kotoe. No task was too difficult for them and they were available to take calls and requests from me though out the visit without complaint.



Read the thank you letters from Ayako, Yoko and and Kohei.

**Tania McKenzie
Exchange Co-ordinator**