

REVIEW FOR THIS TRIP

Day 9, September 7th


The only source of knowledge is experience

Hello, I'm Hajime Natsusaka, a chaperone of a Kiyosato student's group for this 9 day trip to New Zealand. I have written this newsletter for 9 days and let me leave some messages as a conclusion of this amazing trip.

First of all, I thank so much to everyone who supported this trip from Japan and New Zealand. In this trip, I strongly felt we became a part of a long precious history and bond between Japan and New Zealand. In the committee of NZ, there was a family who has been taking part in this project for 3 generations. It is unbelievable and this fact made me think that we should continue this relationship.

All students did their best. They always worked hard and were cooperative with each other to be good students. They followed rules, kept themselves healthy, carefully their belongings, and tried to learn many things.

And they did a presentation about Japan just in front of more than 60 students of Motueka HS. Thanks to cheerful and helpful Motueka students, our students were nervous but they made it. I'm so proud of them, because I know how hard it is to tell something in other languages to foreigners.



I'm also happy to see they recognized and noticed a lot of the differences between Japan and NZ. Sometimes following the rules of other countries makes people uncomfortable, but that experience also makes you better.

Also, they deeply felt how difficult and amazing it was to communicate with each other outside of Japan. The most important thing is not only speaking fluently, but also communicating heart to heart. I've learned that thing from our students and Motueka students.

For me, as an English teacher, this experience made a huge impact on my life. I set a goal before this trip which is "I'm going to communicate with people as much as possible and learn NZ culture, values, and people, then I'll tell everything that I got to my students."

All people who I talked to were very nice and gave me bunch of great ideas what I wanted to know such as about what makes hard to listen their kiwi languages for me, how they think about Māori culture, how great of the natural environment for them, and what kind of problems or concerns they have these days.

I do want to go back to NZ again someday and tell as many people I met to thank you. To learn more about the culture of NZ, I want to stay there more next time. Anyway, I'll never forget the time in Aotearoa , "land of the long white cloud". Kia Ora!



Photos of this trip





