



Education Southland – International Student Programme

Education Southland and its participating schools continue to work on developing opportunities for promoting Southland as an educational destination for international students.

The Education Southland delegation and schools who visited Korea, Hong Kong and Thailand in January 2008 have been very busy following up enquiries from agents and placing a number of new students in our Southland schools. Some of our schools have hosted a variety of short stay visits for students from Thailand, Korea, and a group from Hong Kong is to visit in July.

Education Southland schools have hosted a visit from a German agent. This was the first time this agent has been in Southland and is very interested in supporting Southland schools. She was impressed with the quality of educational experience offered, the friendly and hospitable nature of our people and the fact that our schools have limited German students attending currently.

Venture Southland and James Hargest College have recently hosted a German TV film crew who have followed a German exchange student on her recent arrival to Invercargill and Southland. This TV programme is scheduled to be shown in July 2008. Please see the separate article in this newsletter.

An agent from Thailand who has a number of students enrolled in Southland schools has visited again in April – this was this agents fourth visit in two years.

A Strategic Approach and Thinking Workshop was recently facilitated by Venture Southland with representatives from Verdon College, James Hargest College, Central Southland College, Aparima College, Menzies College, Southland Boys' High School and Southland Girls' High School. Further preparation and planning is underway for refining and developing educational destination packages for Southland. Further work is progressing on developing a Southland Educational Study Tour package and a Southland Cultural Educational Study Tour package.

Education Southland will be represented at the Early Study Abroad and English Camp Fair in Seoul on 24 and 25 May 2008.

Education Southland will also be represented in Hong Kong and Shenzhen on 5 and 6 July 2008.

Education Southland has submitted information to a UK based Language Travel Magazine on the invitation from this magazine for information about the collective approach to educational marketing – and its benefits to the Southland region. This article will be published in June 2008. The following is information provided to this magazine from an agent Education Southland works with in Hong Kong:

“In dealing with a consortium such as Education Southland, we benefited most in having a co-ordinator; i.e. Rex, to whom we can make easy and direct contact in obtaining all required information and promotional materials enabling us to have a thorough understanding of Southland in as whole package which includes education lifestyle, living and accommodation of the region.

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Through the co-ordinator, we can get hold of a clear picture as a whole and easy access to the required information of the schools, educational institutions represented and this helps us a lot in advising students and parents to find a most suitable one in the region.

Close co-ordination and quick communication are important factors to success in our business. In this aspect, we are fortunate to have Rex, who is always helpful and efficient in helping us in problem solving, to act as a bridge between the schools and us, and also doing some follow-up works in our referral. The other benefit of having a consortium is that a lot of our time is saved by contacting all the individual schools. On the part of the schools, also a lot of resources are saved by having a co-ordinator to represent them; for example, in the running of seminars, participation in exhibitions and in promotions etc.

Having a co-ordinator like Rex, to whom we have developed our close relationship, trust and confidence, a lot of resources and time is saved in everyday dealings. As a whole, I would say this system works excellently and to our complete satisfactions.”

Alex Leung
Director
Academic Access
Hong Kong.

Southland on display in German reality TV show

By SEAN GILLESPIE - The Southland Times | Wednesday, 14 May 2008

GUTEN TAG: German exchange student Svenja Johannes is being filmed exploring Southland for a reality television show back home.

Thanks to a German reality television crew, Southland and many of its attractions are to feature on European television this year.

The film crew was in town for a week to shoot the experiences of a James Hargest College German exchange student.

To ensure Southland looked its best, Venture Southland organised for the student and crew to do some of the region's top activities courtesy of the individual operators. Activities included jetboating near Hump Ridge, flying in a 1936 de Havilland Dragonfly at Mandeville, sheep shearing at Waiiau Downs Farm, cycling at the ILT Velodrome, horse riding on Oreti Beach and more.

Venture Southland group manager Rex Capil said he expected the show to have a positive impact on visitor numbers.

Auf und Davon, which translates Far and Away, follows German exchange students and au-pairs around the world and films them experiencing independence.

Director Deborah Stoeckle said German audiences liked to see the activities available in the areas they filmed in. The show's student Svenja Johannes, who is in year 12 at James Hargest College, is in Invercargill for three months from April to July.

The 15-year-old said the activities had been great and she had really enjoyed doing the Lord of the Rings horse ride on Oreti Beach.



Southland Girls' High School

Single Sex School

My name is **Julia Bae**.

I'm from **Korea** and my Korean name is **Bae Na-Youn**.

I am 13 years old this year. I came to Invercargill, New Zealand with my brother, Joseph. He goes to James Hargest College and he is staying at the same homestay as me.

This year I am studying in Year 9 at **Southland Girls' High School**.

There are 1200 girls in our school and only two Korean girls including myself.



Contact Details:

Mrs Barbara Poff, Director of International Students

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🌐 www.southlandgirls.school.nz

👧 Girls Year 7-13

🏠 Enwood House & 🏠 Homestay

👥 1220 Students



At school I'm studying English, Maths, Science, Social Studies, Art and Japanese. From Year 9 there are options for languages and other subjects. Because I have lived in Japan for a few years I'm studying Japanese. Every year you can choose any options you wish. I'm doing Art and Food Design this year.

I enjoy doing Music and Sports at school. I'm playing the violin in the School Junior Chamber Music Group, and I'm in the Table Tennis and Badminton Teams at school.



Often on a Saturday at my homestay I like to bake cakes, muffins, and biscuits. It is very nice to have all the ingredients at home. When we run out I can write it on the shopping list so when my host mum goes to the supermarket she can replace them again. I also like to meet my friends in town and eat lunch or go to the movies with them.



My class and all the Year 9 girls have been to Camp already. I had lots of fun there walking in the forest, kayaking and rock climbing. My favourite was kayaking. We also played puzzles with teachers at night after the activities. I made lots of nice new friends at Camp from the other class.

My host Mum and Dad take us lots of places so we can enjoy and learn lots of things about New Zealand. A month ago they took us with their children to walk the Milford Track – 4 days walking through bush and going to the top of the mountain. We stayed in a hut at nights and we played card games and read books. It was tiring not having a shower for 4 days - but it was still fine because everyone smelt bad!! My body was very sore after all the walking but I think it was a great experience and very good exercise. The scenery was very beautiful and we all had lots of fun. I loved the smell of the fresh air and all the green nature plants and water.

I have learnt from many different experiences and the New Zealand life-style by living with a real Kiwi family.

It is exciting and lots of fun studying in New Zealand living just like the other Kiwis.



Southland Boys' High School

Contact Details:

Mr John McKinlay \ Deputy Principal

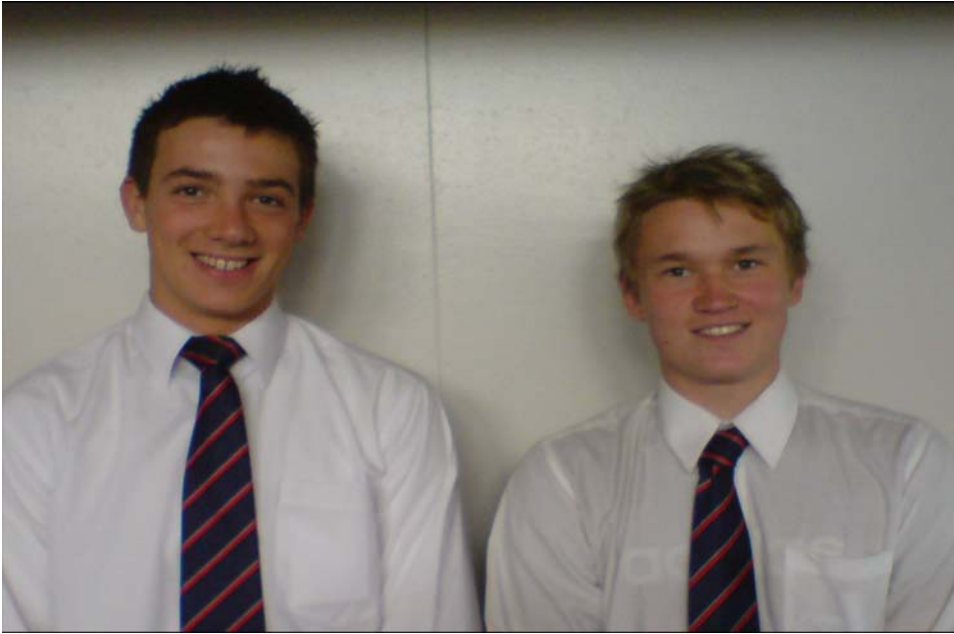
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👤 Boys Year 7-13

🏠 Coldstream Hostel & 🏠 Homestay

👥 1000 Students



Tom Tahon and Kristian Vestby

Hey, I am Tom Tahon, I'm 17 I come from France and I've spent 1 year in the far South of New Zealand, Invercargill.

I arrived in July 2007 and leave at the end of June 2008. I went to Southland Boy's High School, which was great fun, the staff and the boys are really cool I really enjoyed it.

New Zealand is a very sporty country and especially in South Island. I started rowing in November 07 and did a few regattas. We ended up going to nationals in Hamilton where we got 6th place in a double sculls which was a great achievement for me and my rowing partner.

In April we took part in the Maadi cup which is the biggest school competition in the southern hemisphere where about 2000 participants raced 42 events during 6 days. We didn't do very well so we didn't make the final, but it was a great week which achieved a great season of rowing for me.

New Zealand is I think a very good place to live. It's not too big, the population is very friendly, sports events are major facts in the every days life (which is great), the All Blacks are awesome and it's such a beautiful country.

I had this occasion to do a tramp in the bush and up the mountains and there were wonderful sceneries. I had an awesome family and they were great and really helped me not to be homesick.

New Zealand is a very good place to go, and by the way, go to Queenstown, it is a lot of fun and a very nice place.



My time at James Hargest College by Joseph Bae

Hello, my name is Joseph. I am 16 years old. This is a story about myself and studying in New Zealand.

It has almost been a year for me in New Zealand. I have experienced new things and differences between NZ and Korea. NZ has clean air and clean water. There are many parks with green fields. People can have picnics, play sports and enjoy talking. New Zealand is also a safe country. At night you can see stars clearly when you can't see them in Korea.

My host family are very nice to me. I have lots of brothers and sisters. I like playing sports outside with my host brothers Jack and Tom. It is good that they have lots of relatives because they help me with new things. When their family and their kids come visit our house, we can play rugby on the grass lawn at our house. Rugby is one of the most popular, exciting sports in New Zealand.

My host mum and dad take me to my music lessons and soccer practice each week. My host family have taken me to visit many places, like Queenstown, Te Anau and Milford Sound. I enjoyed visiting Queenstown because the jet boat was very thrilling and exciting.



Over Easter I walked the Milford Track with my host family. It is very famous and very beautiful and I really enjoyed swimming in the very fresh clear water each day when we stopped walking.

I also enjoyed the natural bush and the beautiful views and waterfalls.

My school, James Hargest College, has more than 1800 New Zealand students based on two sites. Students come from overseas to study English. There are about 40 of us from many different countries.

There are many opportunities for children at James Hargest College. You can do the same subjects as in Korea and there are many new things to try like Outdoor Education.

I walk or bike to school each day as school is so close to my house and it is very safe.

Every year in my school the juniors go to camp and I went on one. I tried lots of different activities you can't do in Korea. I enjoyed Rock climbing and Kayaking the most.

My school is also famous for music. I've joined the Hargest Concert Band and Orchestra. Two years ago my Concert Band went to Singapore. And they have won the gold medal.

Then last year the band went to Palmerston North for a New Zealand Concert Band Competition and we also won the gold medal there. It was great opportunity for me to make new friends.

I also like to ride my bike around Invercargill where I live. On Fridays after school we all meet and play games. In the weekends I meet the other international students at a park and we play soccer.

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Jenny Elder - Deputy Principal

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🌐 www.jameshargest.school.nz

👤 👤 Co-educational Year 7-13

🏠 Homestay

👥 1750 Students



Central Southland College

Contact Details:

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🌐 www.csc.school.nz

👤 👤 Co-educational Year 7-13

🏠 Homestay

👥 540 Students

I'm Percy Ko from Hong Kong. I have been studying in Central Southland College for 3 months. This is my second time in New Zealand, but the first time for me to visit Southland.

Southland is totally different from the place I come from. Here it is quiet with a very blue and cloudy sky and it doesn't have tall buildings. HK is a city with lots of tall buildings and scaffolding.



I'm in year 13, which is the last NZ high school year. This school has a big green campus, which has 6 blocks and a big ground for activities. In HK most of the schools have only a tall building and a playground the size of two basketball courts.

Teachers and schoolmates in NZ are very friendly. They always help me to learn more about their culture. Teachers teach their classes patiently: they really want to explain the topic to us, so that we can fully understand it.

In CSC, they don't put a lot of students in a year 13 class; they will probably put 15 to 18 students in a class, which is good for us because we can concentrate on the lessons easily.



In these 3 months, I have been living on a sheep farm. It is a good opportunity to learn how farms work. Sometimes, I helped my host family to do some farm work, which is quite hard and smelly. Teenagers in HK don't do farm work. The first day I worked on the farm, I shifted the sheep from one paddock to another. For me it was very confusing. As time has passed, I have got used to the work, but not the smell!

My host family are very good. They have shown me different places in NZ: we went on trips to Tekapo and Te Anau. They have also shown me what NZ family life is like: they are hard working, they like cooking and they eat a lot of meat.

Finally, I'm very glad I had the chance to stay in NZ. It hasn't just changed my daily life but my outlook and my plans for the future. I want to say thank you to the people who have been so good to me.