

# My exchange year in Cashmere High School

By Laura Büchler (Germany)

I really enjoyed being a student in Cashmere High School. It was a year, quite different to my normal life back in Switzerland. The school is so much easier and so relaxed here. I chose awesome subjects that I can't do at home, like Outdoor Education, Photography, Tourism, Childcare or Maori.



Through my Maori teacher I went to an opening of the Marae in Rapaki. I had a real traditional Maori weekend there and I probably was the only pakeha. Which made the whole thing even more exciting and interesting. I had the chance to be part of the show in the waka, which was so much fun. Then we had to do the haka and because I had no idea how to do one, I have never done one before, I just placed myself behind the biggest Maori guy and hoped that nobody could see me...

In Outdoor Education we had a kayak trip for two days and a tramp for three days in Arthurs pass on the Cass saddle Lagoon track. There we did heaps of river crossings, map training, orienteering and had some exciting adventures when we walked off track down the slope and through the bush. But it was freezing, we even had to pitch the tent in snow the first day. In the evenings we sat around the fire, talked and cooked our food.

School trips such as this are great! I really enjoyed them and luckily I had a few of them here in New Zealand. Thanks to Cashmere High School! :)