



# Westland High School

## International Newsletter

August, 2011

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Numbers of international students

We have a small programme. Currently we have 7 students; 3 from Japan, 3 from Germany and 1 from Uruguay. We have a policy of a limit of 6 from one country.

#### Pastoral care

We provide monthly reports on the student – from the host, student, and homestay assistant. We carefully monitor integration, safety and academic progress.

#### ERO audit (Education Review Office)

ERO checked our procedures recently and we received excellent feedback. They confirmed we are offering a quality service.

#### University entrance

Two of our German students are aiming for New Zealand University Entrance. This will enable them to attend university in Germany on their return. We have had two students who have achieved this qualification to date.

#### Climate

Westland has a very temperate climate. It is located in a rainforest region – so, yes it does rain, and quite heavily at times. However the number of days when it rains is not that different to Auckland (Hokitika - 168; Auckland - 145). The heaviest rainfall is in Spring (September). Winter on the other hand is mild – often with clear blue skies. Summer is temperate. Westland is the least windy region in the country.

The Hokitika weather has contributed to a beautiful ecosystem; this part of New Zealand gives you the chance to experience unspoilt, lush rainforest, and some of the most breathtaking glaciers in the world.

#### Proximity to the natural environment

Hokitika is located on the coast. The beach has opportunities for body boarding.

All outdoor activities are close by – and one of the special factors for us is that

the students in the outdoor education programme can take part in abseiling, rock climbing, kayaking etc – and be back for the other classes.

#### English lessons

We offer ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) for beginners and advanced students.

IELTS is available for students wishing to take this qualification.

Grammar is included in one section of the Year 13 English course.

Because we have a small international programme there is plenty of opportunity to make NZ friends and improve your English conversation.

#### Website

Our new school website has been updated – visit us at

[www.westlandhigh.school.nz](http://www.westlandhigh.school.nz)

You can also find links there to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and sign up for the fortnightly school newsletter.

#### Climate comparisons

	Hokitika	Auckland	Tokyo	Berlin	Sao Paulo
Average high	15.8 C	18.9 C	19.9 C	13.4 C	24.5 C
Average low	7.6 C	11.3 C	12.9 C	5.9 C	14.5 C
Rainfall	2875mm	1240mm	1529mm	571mm	1460mm
Sunshine hours	1860	2060	1880	1625	1738

*Data gathered from wikipedia.org*

# Outdoor Education



Westland High School achieved the **OutdoorsMark - safety audit** in May 2011. We celebrate the achievement and recognition of the excellence of our programme especially in relation to safety. The report concludes: **“The transparent safety culture at Westland High School is to be commended”**.

[http://www.outdoorsnz.org.nz/cms\\_display.php?sn=177&st=1&pg=2153&mp=7](http://www.outdoorsnz.org.nz/cms_display.php?sn=177&st=1&pg=2153&mp=7)

## What is OutdoorsMark?

OutdoorsMark is the national outdoor safety audit programme designed specifically for operations involved in outdoor recreation, education, and adventure programmes. It is designed by the New Zealand outdoor sector for the New Zealand outdoor sector and provides an independent process for assessing the robustness of operational safety policies, procedures and practices.

## International news

### Goodbyes

At the end of term 2 we farewelled Jana, and Johanna back home to Germany and Anna home to Switzerland. We wish you well and thank you for your friendship. Stay in touch.

### Welcome

At the beginning of term 3 we welcomed Uli from Germany.

### Short visit

We recently hosted 11 students and a teacher from Tachikawa Girls' High School, Japan plus Mrs Ando (JTC NZ) for two weeks. We had a great time – and look forward to strengthening the relationship.

## Contact Us

Yvonne Simpson  
*Director of International Programmes*  
[yvonesimpson@westlandhigh.school.nz](mailto:yvonesimpson@westlandhigh.school.nz)  
Phone +64 3 755 6169 extension 829

Anna on a recent  
outdoor education trip

