



Stewart Island tramp with ODR



Kia Ora!

My name is Lea Brüggmann and I live near Munich in Germany. I stayed at James Hargest College for half a year, from January to July 2019.

I chose to go to James Hargest College, because of their big music department and I also took music as a subject. Every week I had 20 minutes of piano lessons with a teacher at school. Through my piano teacher, I also entered a Chamber Music competition. I enjoyed playing in a trio and I heard performances from students at other schools. I joined the school choir and took part in the Big Sing, the annual singing competition.

Another subject I took was Outdoor Recreation. Taking this subject was a great way to do outdoor activities around Invercargill. In the first term, we learned kayaking. We practised in a pool to start with and then went on river trips as we became more experienced. At the end of the first term, we went on an overnight camp to Mavora Lakes where we kayaked a lot.

The second term we started with tramping. Every week we went on a tramp in areas around Invercargill. In class, we learned about different outdoor gear and clothing and learned a lot about the skills associated with all the activities we did. When doing Outdoor Recreation you also go to Stewart Island where we did the Rakiura track. The trip was three days, and we tramped for about six hours every day. For the two nights, we stayed in huts on the island. We had to carry all our gear and prepare food by ourselves. We organised everything in the lessons before the trip. Stewart Island is a beautiful place to see and to go tramping. We also learned orienteering and did multiple orienteering events around Invercargill.

My host family lived ten minutes by foot away from the school. My host family was comprised of me, my host mom and dad, their son, and my two host sisters. One

of my host sisters was from Japan and arrived at the same time as me. She was the same age as me, so we also had some classes together. My second host sister was from China and was younger than me. She taught us how to make sushi and other Asian foods, which was a lot of fun and I also learned a lot about their countries' cultures from them. My host family had a piano I could practise on. I bought a second-hand bike, which was very handy to get around Invercargill, to meet with friends in town to watch the movies or do something else together. If I wasn't able to get to a place by myself, my host parents were always ready to drive me or pick me up.

I had a great time and I not only improved my English skills, but also experienced a lot of new things and met really nice people.

Tramping

