



**St Margaret's School**  
**Student Exchange Testimonial**  
**Georgia Coward-Smith and Zoe Freihofer, exchange to Christchurch, New Zealand**

Being lucky enough to participate in the Student Exchange program with New Zealand (NZ) has allowed us to experience the world in a different light. There were eight girls who travelled from NZ (Wellington and Christchurch).

We were paired with the two lovely girls from St Margaret's College in Christchurch, Alice and Vivien. The first stage of the exchange involved the NZ girls travelling to Melbourne where we were able to introduce them to many things uniquely Australian. They really enjoyed touring the Great Ocean Road, visiting Ballarat and exploring the Melbourne CBD. The girls had a great time in classes at school and were especially lucky to visit Canberra as part of the Year 9 curriculum. This proved a valuable experience for both girls and allowed us all to become closer than ever. The six girls from Wellington share similar stories of exploration and discovery. This has certainly been a highlight with strong cross-Tasman friendships being made. Everyone had a brilliant experience that we won't be forgetting anytime soon.

After a couple of months had passed we were very much looking forward to the next stage in the exchange when we travelled to New Zealand. As we boarded the aeroplane there was a great deal of anticipation. We were full of excitement knowing we'd get to see our exchange partners again. During our stay in NZ we experienced some of the rehearsals for their school production of *A Midsummers Night Dream* and attended classes, learning many new things as we made friends and joined in with the classwork. It was interesting seeing the difference in education systems between New Zealand and Australia.

When the holiday period started it was very exciting. We got to participate in many things including a night at the majestic Lake Tekapo, ice skating and snow tubing. Exploring the city, visiting some local beaches and having meals with family were also great fun. We really enjoyed spending time with our exchange partners and we intend to keep in contact as we have become quite close. It's definitely an experience I won't be forgetting any time soon.