



VIRTUTE ET LABORE

**St Margaret's School**  
**Student Exchange Testimonial**  
**Hannah Quinn, exchange to Wellington, New Zealand**

When I first heard about the New Zealand (NZ) exchange, I was so excited. Hearing all the amazing experiences from previous years, I knew this was something I really wanted to do. After waiting eagerly for news on my application, I was notified that I had been selected to participate along with 11 other girls and boys.

After getting to know my exchange partner, Sarah, through phone conversations and messages, I couldn't wait for her to arrive in Melbourne. When she first walked through the gates at the airport, I was very anxious and nervous, but excited to finally meet her. While Sarah was in Australia, we went to the Melbourne Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary, we took her to see an AFL football game, we visited Bright for a week and we walked around Melbourne City to see all the landmarks. During the final week, we went on a school trip to Canberra. I had an amazing time with Sarah while she was in Australia and it was sad to say goodbye.

When I first arrived in Wellington, NZ, I was very nervous to meet Sarah's family and to adjust to living in a new home. It didn't take long for me to feel at home. The first three weeks in Wellington I spent going to her beautiful school, Queen Margaret College. All the girls were very welcoming and this made it easy for me to establish new friendships. On the third weekend we visited Queenstown. We packed a lot of adrenalin filled activities into the weekend and looked around Queenstown and all the shops. Together with some other exchange girls, Rebecca and Mika, we had a great last week crocodile biking, going to the movies and driving up to Taupo and Rotorua. We went to see the Huka Falls, Glowworm Caves, the Hot Springs, Waimangu Volcanic Thermal Park and we went on The Luge, The Sky Swing and The Cliff Hanger. It was sad to leave Sarah, Mika and New Zealand but I was excited to be heading home.

Having the opportunity to participate in the New Zealand exchange has been a one in a lifetime opportunity. I have made lifelong friendships and have been able to experience the culture in New Zealand. The host families were very welcoming and have given me some of the best memories that I will never forget. I couldn't have asked for a better exchange partner and I can't wait to see her again soon. This exchange has left me with some unforgettable memories and experiences.