

NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS' SCHOOLTRIP IN NEW CALEDONIA LAST APRIL

On April of this year, students from New-Zealand came in New-Caledonia for a school trip, the beginning of a true partnership between the Hamilton St Paul's Collegiate School and the Lycée du Grand Nouméa. They arrived on Sunday 20th at around half past three pm. As it was Easter time, They spent Sunday evening and Monday in host families, eating chocolates for many of them and hanging out in Vata Bay, a touristic hot spot with many ice cream shops, hotels, sea activities... Then, on Tuesday, meanwhile host students got back to school after two weeks of vacation, New-Zealand students went to Bourail, to visit the museum, Teremba Fort (an ancient prison), the New-Zealander cemetery and a famous rock which looks like a man with a hat called « la roche percée » in front of the beach. They had the opportunity to swim. On Wednesday they went with us to the high school : there, they should have had French class but unfortunately the French teacher was missing, instead they went to the library from 7 to 9am. From 9 to 11, they participated with us to the sport class, and were initiated to volley ball, gymnastic or badminton. On Wednesday afternoon, we took them to the city center. We ate at Mc Donald's and tasted some frozen yogurt. Eventually we went to the beach and got back home at around 4pm. The following day New Zealand students went with host students in history class in the morning, had lunch with them at the school canteen and finally went to 'Îlot canard', a small beautiful island with sandy beach, in the afternoon. There, they could try stand up paddle, they also swam and dived. On Friday 25th, on early morning we all went to the Anzac Day for approximately 2 hours. It was a moving experience for the French students. Then, New Zealand students went to the light island (« Le phare amédée » in French) where they could dive, eat buffet with typical foods, they watched dance, took the glass-bottom ship to enjoy turtles... They got back at 5:30 pm. During the week end they were with host families. Some host families took them to the great south where there are beautiful lakes, dam, awesome mountains, rivers... Some of them could practise kayak or swim again. Other host families took them hunting and fishing, a very popular activity in New-Caledonia. On Sunday, we all join each other for the giant omelette festival at Dumbea. There were many local foods, shows and a river where we all finally jumped. On Monday 28th, the NZ students went to the city center visited the museum, got lunch and walked around the coconut place. Some host students joined them in the afternoon (as we are free on Monday afternoons) to enjoy the last day with them. On the evening, a kind of little meal was held to thank host families. Finally, our kiwi friends left on Tuesday 29th at around 8am from the high school where they took the bus till the airport. That day marked host students who cried for their leaving. They took the plane at 11am to get back home. We really enjoy their stay with us and we are longing for seeing them again in September!!