

IACE Inbound New Zealand 2009

In July and August groups from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States spent nearly three weeks touring around New Zealand.



The tour started in Auckland and finished in Christchurch. The Cadets and Escorts were treated to a whirlwind tour of our country. Along with visiting various tourist attractions the group enjoyed the opportunity of visiting the various Air Force and Navy Bases and Army Camps. The highlight for them was also the chance to interact with cadets here by visiting some local ATC Units to get a firsthand look at the way our Squadrons parade etc and enjoy the hospitality of staying in their homes.

Their experience of our culture included an overnight stay in the Marae at Waiouru and by the feedback was one of the best activities on the itinerary. Mr Eru Brown really knew how to entertain them with the legends of our past and explain the significance of the carvings etc around the Marae.

The group was also delighted to get the opportunity to meet and talk to MAJ GEN Jerry Matapaere and the Chief's of the Navy, Army and Air Force along with other high ranking military officials at a morning tea in Wellington.



Te Papa marae



With CDF

Of course Bungy Jumping at Queenstown was another opportunity for them to get an adrenalin rush and eight of the group including the UK Mascot (strapped very tightly to a cadet) took the plunge off the Kawarau Bridge in the pouring rain. The UK

contingent was impressed as their Mascot received his own personal certificate at the completion of the jump.



Ready to Bungy

The Australians eagerly alighted from the bus when we stopped at the top of the Lindis Pass for them to get out and have some fun in the snow – a new experience for the North Queenslanders. Another play in the snow in the Antarctic Centre proved very popular as it was difficult to get them out of the Ice and Snowstorm experience room. The blue penguins were fun to watch and outside was the Hagglund ride that some of them took.

The group were very appreciative of all that we offered them and together took over 6000 photos and numerous memories back to their homes to share with their families, friends and Units.



On the simulation range at Waiouru

I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to be their tour guide and showing them our country. They did however all agree that the scenery etc was much better in the South Island.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and support of ATCANZ, NZDF, NZCF HQ and Area Offices and staff, the various Units involved and those who opened their homes to help make the trip for these Cadets and Escorts enjoyable and memorable.

FGOFF Pip Corlett