

## Heaven, 18537,78 Km from Home

*di Nicolò Bonfanti*

This Lions Youth Exchange has been a great exchange experience in New Zealand. It started from the second week of December to the second of January, more or less a month. I enjoyed a lot it because first at all I had many experiences and practiced sports like surfing, paintball, canoeing, climbing, boating and fishing. I went to a Christmas concert on a hill and it was really nice experience because everyone sang Christmas songs and wore Christmas clothes like scarves, gloves with Santa Claus and jumpers with Christmas trees.



I surfed a lot in this exchange with the son of the first family, it was amazing! On Christmas day, it was like at home, because we were twenty-four people so I did not feel homesick. I ate a lot their dessert like panlova that my host mum cooked the day before. I helped too about cooking New Zealand dishes and Italians.



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he day after Christmas, called Boxing day, we went to the city that was twenty minutes far and we walked on the seaside and swam in the ocean, the water was really cold but no one scares about it.





After ten days in the first family I went to a camp with all the other students, in Rotorua, in the centre of New Zealand. At the camp I enjoyed a lot, I met fifty-four guys coming from all over the world. We went to a lot of lakes and we swam there, we did paintball and it was adrenaline-charged. We went in a Maori village; Maori are the first inhabitants of NZ, they're very religious. We had to learn some Maori's songs to go there.



After the camp I went ten days in another family in Auckland. Where I jumped down the sky-tower 392 m high. I don't know why I did it but I just know that I had to do it. I felt alive, it was such a great experience. I visited a lot of museums in Auckland, like the Maritime museum that it's about sailing. I went also to Art Gallery Museum and to Auckland Museum. It was really interesting and instructive. I fished with rods in the middle of the ocean too with my host family.



There aren't negative points about this exchange.

“WE SERVE”

Nicolò Bonfanti

Lions Club Val San Martino Lecco

