



REFERENZEN

NAPIER BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

SEBASTIAN BORCHERS

My name is Sebastian Borchers. I'm from Bremen, Germany, and I'm 16 years old. I was always someone who liked to experience something new, discover new places, meet new people and learn how to integrate into a different culture was always something I wanted to do. I realized that an exchange year would probably be the best option for me. I came to the conclusion that New Zealand would be the country I wanted to go to. For someone from Europe like me the landscape of New Zealand is just absolutely amazing. As well as the landscape I always heard good things about the 'kiwis'

I had absolutely the best time of my life in New Zealand. I'm so happy to say that for me Hawkes' Bay as well as Napier Boys' High School was the best place to go to! Hawkes Bay is such a beautiful place, with all its nature and all the types of different people that live together. Everyone who was born there is proud to be a kiwi and proud to be from Hawkes' Bay.

Napier Boys' perfectly combines sport and academics. The teachers put so much effort into their daily work. I have never seen anything like that at my school in Germany. From day one, the school 1st XI hockey team accepted me as a team member and made it really easy for me to get enough confidence to play with them. My coach Mr Martindale and our team manager Mrs Millward-Brown helped me through the whole season when I had problems or just needed someone to talk to.

The friends I made in New Zealand weren't just school friends... after a while I had some real close friends. Life-long friends.



We hung-out after school and went camping at nearby Waimarama Beach. At Napier Boys' High School, students don't just learn how to study, they are taught how to behave and how to respect others and I think that makes the school really special.

First of all a big thanks to Mr Cameron, the school's international director, who helped me through the whole year. I could come to him with any question or idea I had and he would solve it for me, and he is also the one who helped me find my amazing host family.

I was hopeful I would get a host family I could at least deal iving with for a year. I would have never expected it to be as amazing as it turned out! From day one I got accepted as a family member. It was unbelievably easy for me to settle into my new life, at school and home, that I felt like an actual kiwi after a few weeks. My host brother made me feel like I was his real brother. My host mum was like a real mum, she would care as much as she would care for her son and that made me feel really special. My host dad was one of the coolest people I met in New Zealand. He always took me out hunting or we would go fishing and stuff. I think the connection I have to my host family best describes that they are going to visit me next year!

The problem I got is that I could easily write a whole book about how amazing this year has been! but I needed to put it in this text so I hope it turned out alright, haha! Thanks to everyone who made it possible for me to experience this year, I'm sure that I can use all the experiences I gained in my future studies and life.

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