
2015-16 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

10-23-2015

School's Out!

Megan Lee
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_postcards_1516

Recommended Citation

Lee, Megan, "School's Out!" (2015). *2015-16 Postcards*. Article. Submission 10.
https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_postcards_1516/10

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield, with permission from the rights-holder(s). Your use of this Article must comply with the [Terms of Use](#) for material posted in DigitalCommons@Linfield, or with other stated terms (such as a Creative Commons license) indicated in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, or if you have questions about permitted uses, please contact digitalcommons@linfield.edu.

School's Out!



Abel Tasman

Kia Ora!

After spring break, it was time to get back to class. In my rebuilding Christchurch class, I had the opportunity to work with Gap Filler, an organization that creates temporary projects, events and installations on sites that have suffered damage from the earthquakes. Their mission is to reactivate these spaces through creativity and community involvement. I helped to organize Christchurch's first annual PARK(ing) Day, a worldwide event where individuals, small businesses and community groups can pay for a public parking space and occupy it in a fun, creative way. The event was a success, and for our project I put together a short video of our experience. You can view this video on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Tq7w9AR10>.

That weekend, I also went on my first Land Journeys and Ethics field trip to the Port Hills. We learned about native plants and camped overnight. It rained and hailed, so we quickly learned how to stay warm in harsh weather conditions. A great tip is to do sit-ups in your tent before going to sleep.

The next weekend, we took a trip to Mt. Cook, where we hiked and camped overnight. It was so warm outside that I took a refreshing dip in a nearby glacier pond. Unfortunately, we fell asleep tanning on boulders and got pretty sunburnt. We finished the trip by celebrating my friend Erik's birthday by watching the sunset at Lake Tekapo.

I was excited for it to finally be October because Colin, Blathnaid and I had tickets to see one of my favorite bands, Maroon 5. It was amazing to see them perform, and even more exciting to be at a concert in New Zealand. We finished the weekend of good weather with a relaxing trip to Sumner beach.

Before I knew it, it was time to go on another Land Journeys and Ethics field trip. On this wilderness excursion, we were dropped off in the woods near Arthurs Pass in the middle of the night and expected to find our way to our campsite. We broke up into groups of 4 with nothing but our packs, a map and a compass. After two hours of following our bearing through thick brush, we found the campsite. Over the next two days, we built emergency shelters, learned to start a fire and learned how to effectively cross a river.

The next week was the last week of class at uni before exams. On the last day of class, the student association threw an event called Tea Party where the entire student body dressed up in costumes. A ticket to Tea Party gets you free food, access to various carnival rides and a concert featuring multiple DJs including Summer Thieves and PANAMA.

With classes over, seven of us planned a trip to Abel Tasman. We walked 40 kilometers in only three days! The hike along the coastline was beautiful and even though the water was still cold, I enjoyed having time to swim and relax in the sun. We spotted seals, dolphins and penguins along the way. It's been one of my favorite trips so far because of the great company and weather.

With less than a month left in New Zealand, I've been experiencing a lot of new emotions. July feels like both yesterday and years ago at the same time. I want to spend every moment with my friends that I can. In a few days, five of us are leaving for the North Island. I'm excited to explore a new area of New Zealand and see what the North has to offer!

Cheers,

Megan