

3-19-2020

Interview and Observations in New Zealand

Emmaline Irvine
Linfield College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1920

Recommended Citation

Irvine, Emmaline, "Interview and Observations in New Zealand" (2020). *2019-20 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 8.

https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1920/8

This Essay 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 Essay 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.

Emmaline Irvine
University of Waikato, New Zealand
3/19/20

Interview and Observations in New Zealand

I interviewed my hall mate who is from New Zealand. This is her first year at university and while being from New Zealand, her family is Indian, so she is wrapped up in both the cultures of India and New Zealand. She and I are actually pretty similar, despite being from different countries and being part of different cultures. We are both college students, we like going out to get pizza, we love to go shopping, we don't like to get up early for class, and we love animals. She has been such a wonderful source for me to learn new words and customs here. Our lifestyles as students are pretty similar, we go to class during the day, eat at the dining hall, watch movies with our friends, go out with friends in the evenings, and wait too long to do our laundry. However, our values of family time and our weekends at college are slightly different. She goes home every weekend instead of staying in college, despite being integrated into social groups here and having lots of friends. It is very important to her that she gets to spend time with her family and enjoy their company during the weekend after being away at school all week. I love my family and enjoy spending time with them, but when I am at college, I do not go home unless it is a school break. Perhaps it is selfish of me, but I want to spend time at school and continue to build my life there, rather than spending every weekend at home. To her, it is essential that she gets to spend time at home every weekend.

My hall mate and I come from different cultures, and at times this can be very apparent, but other times, it cannot be noticed. For example, she and I use our forks and knives differently. I hold my fork with my dominant hand and keep my other hand on my lap, except when I need to cut something. She holds her

fork upside down (in my opinion) and uses her knife constantly to push food onto her fork. We talked about this, and realized that my style of eating is distinctly American, whereas hers is more European or British. We like the same types of food, music, movies, and clothes and we have similar tastes as college students. We both speak English (and she also speaks Punjabi which is just a cool fact about her), but her English sounds so foreign to me. Her accent is distinctly Kiwi, and when I first met her, I had to listen carefully to everything she said, but by now, I am adjusting and I understand her so much better than I did at first. She uses words that I don't always understand, but I am learning, like keen, which basically means interested, bench, which means counter, and jandals, which means flip flops. I asked her if my accent was hard to understand or weird, and she acted like I was crazy, laughing and saying, "NO! It's just an American accent!" She grew up watching popular movies, and most actors had American accents in the movies, so she is familiar with the accent.

Everyone in New Zealand, my hall mate included, has been so sweet and accepting. Our interview just confirms how wonderful New Zealand and the people are, and I want to bring back some New Zealand hospitality and kindness to the United States. It is interesting to hear perceptions of the United States from people I meet here. I enjoyed interviewing my hall mate and I love spending time with all of the people here in New Zealand!