

# New Zealand 2011



## Daily Report

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## DAILY REPORT

### July 12, 2011

ICEP New Zealand reported to the Chimney Barn at 12! The group had a quick conversation with Alysa and Jim, then jumped right into name games and icebreakers. The group took a quick walk on the Intercamp Trail to Becket and set up their bunks at Gibson Hall. Then ICEP headed down the hill to the Shellenberger Amphitheater for their New Zealand cultural presentations to each other. The group began the first of their role-playing scenarios and demonstrated great maturity in their debriefs. Dinner was a cookout with Ranger Village, which gave a chance for everyone to bond with less structured time. After dinner, EnZed headed down to the Becket waterfront for some important conversations and a few more scenarios. It was a beautiful night and the group finished the evening off with a few quiet minutes on the Becket library porch and watched an amazing sunset before chat, which was first written for the log, then summarized aloud: *What Goals Do You Have For The Trip and What Do You Bring To The Group?*

### July 13, 2011

Today was an early wakeup for the first meal in the Becket dining Hall, where the group was given a rousing welcome by the camp community. After breakfast, everyone aced their swim test. NZ then headed back to Gibby for a luggage relay against ICEP China II, which EnZed won. Following the baggage relay, the group handled some more scenarios. The group had a brief siesta after lunch, then headed down to the library and filled out the first section of the CCRs. A little down time followed, along with a conversation with Jim and Alysa about the non-negotiables. Everyone was receptive and NZ covered the non-negotiables in more detail afterward. A quick game of mafia followed and the group marched up to Moose Field, ready to play some serious kickball against an ICEP China group looking for revenge from the morning's baggage relay. It was a spirited game and hard-fought. EnZed mounted a strong comeback, but a thunderstorm ended the rally. Safely in the dining hall, China and NZ set the tables for all of camp. Following dinner, everyone trekked out to Rocky Point for a few more scenarios and a good conversation about homestays. After a moment of silence to take in the view, everyone headed back to Gibby to watch *Whale Rider*. It was a tearjerker, especially for anyone who stayed awake. It was a late night with a quick chat: *What Location Are You Most Looking Forward To Seeing In Person?*

### July 14, 2011

TRAVEL! After an early wakeup, EnZed broke down the tables in the dining hall and got to meet Tim Murphy and Matt Dinger, who led EnZed in 2006 and 2010. Tim and Matt admitted their jealousy, then offered advice and answered questions and everyone got even more excited for the trip. Back at Gibby, NZ made the final preparations and lugged bags to Moose for the pickup. The group loaded up and headed to Chimney, where ICEP Chile joined the bus to JFK. The trip to JFK was around 4 hours and Chile kept the group entertained with lots of singing and conversation. Check-in and security was a breeze for EnZed and everyone set up shop at the gate and got the first chance to break into groups of four for airport explorations. Everyone sprawled out and had some serious competition going on between Uno and Bananagrams, which was well-received by passerby. The flight to LAX passed quickly and everyone took full advantage of the available entertainment. After a brief layover, it was on to New Zealand with a

thirteen hour flight to Auckland. Everyone handled it well and alternated between sleep, movies and making friendship bracelets.

### **July 16, 2011**

Auckland! No July 15<sup>th</sup>? The group arrived in Auckland in the morning and breezed through customs, passport control, and Biosecurity to make sure our boots were clean. Beki, the NZ partner and manager at YMCA Waiwera Lodge, along with Kurt, one of her instructors, met the group outside the baggage claim. Everyone followed them to the vans and loaded the bags on a trailer for the trip back to the lodge. Beki and Kurt showed everyone their cabins and cooked a great Kiwi breakfast of sausage, spaghetti, eggs, toast, Marmite, and cereal. Beki gave everyone a little more downtime, which some of the group used to check out the Waiwera Dairy while others explored the lodge. NZ then headed back into Auckland to check out a Battle of the Bands, run by a local YMCA teen group called Raise Up that would visit Waiwera Lodge later in the trip. The concert promoted a smoke-free New Zealand. After hearing a few songs and getting to meet some of the teen leaders, the group headed back to Waiwera Lodge and wandered around the little town. Everyone got a little muddy tromping through the tidal flats and on the beach, then headed into the kitchen for a dinner of chicken drumsticks and mashed potatoes. After dinner, everyone headed to the hot pools for some hot water soaks and water slides, which was a blast. The group continued to become closer throughout the evening. Chat was: *What is your favorite possession?*

### **July 17, 2011**

After a slight sleep in, the group started the day with a hike around Wenderholm Regional Park, just across the bridge from Waiwera. The weather was amazing and the group got some great pictures from a clearing at the top of the hill. Everyone frolicked on the beach and soaked in the views of sand cliffs, rolling hills, islands, ocean and sheep. After a delicious lunch of pumpkin soup, the group loaded up into the vans for another trip to Auckland to check out the Auckland War Memorial Museum, which had tons of information on the Maori and New Zealand's natural history. The group then drove to the Auckland YMCA with Beki and Kurt and walked down to the Sky Tower. The Tower offered amazing views in every direction and the group ended the day in Auckland sitting on the glass floor, 190 meters above the ground. Then everyone headed back to Waiwera Lodge for a spaghetti dinner, then tidied up for the arrival of the Holiday Campers, who were coming the next morning. Chat was: *If You Could Know If There Was Life After Death, Would You Want To Find Out?*

### **July 18, 2011**

Our first day of service! After an early wakeup to eat breakfast and pack lunches, the group headed to the Whangaperoa Peninsula to work with Peter Pierce, a volunteer for Forrest and Bird, a very active conservation group. He taught us about the Raroa Project, which creates feeding stations for native birds who are flying to less developed areas. The group spent the morning waging war on kikuri grass, a non-native species that competed with native tree saplings for light and water. It was a long day and everyone kept their spirits high. At the end of the day, Peter was very appreciative and gave each group member a sapling he had grown from seed to plant. Peter also gave everyone their first Whittaker's Peanut Slabs as a token of appreciation, as well as a two t-shirts as prizes. The group headed back to Waiwera for quick showers before meeting the Holiday Campers just before dinner. The group then taught Wah!

and Screaming Toes to the Holiday Campers. The chat topic was: *If You Could Give A Gift To The World, What Would It Be And Why?*

### **July 19, 2011**

The group split in two for the day. Half went with Emmily Campbell, our official program assistant who had arrived late the evening before, to the North Shore YMCA in Auckland. The North Shore group woke up early to make their lunches and had breakfast before heading into Auckland and meeting up with another Holiday Camp at the North Shore YMCA. When they arrived at the North Shore YMCA and were divided into two groups. One group headed to the Museum of Transportation (8-10 year olds) and the other group headed to Butterfly Creek (5-7 year olds). The other half the group started the day splitting again between the older and younger Holiday Camp groups. The senior (older) group loaded up kayaks on a trailer and headed to Puhoi, for a paddle down the Puhoi River and finished in Wenderholm. It was a beautiful paddle, although everyone was pretty chilled by the end. The other group at Waiwera worked with the junior campers and helped lead a hike through Wenderholm. After lunch, the Waiwera groups alternated between helping on the climbing wall (and learning to belay) with teaching archery. After a long day, the group reunited for a quick dinner and headed off to bowl, dressed as geeks, but not before a spontaneous dance party in the school house. Chat was: *What's On Your Bucket List? What Will Always Be There For You?*

### **July 20, 2011**

The group split again and switched roles from the previous day. Half went to the North Shore YMCA with Emmily, where they were split again. Several took a field trip to the New Zealand Naval Museum, where they helped the campers make a pendant necklace and complete a scavenger hunt. The other half stayed at North Shore and facilitated games and activities at the YMCA and got to witness a K9 police demonstration, as well as a science exhibition. They also got to swing past a Warehouse on the way back to Waiwera, which is NZ's Walmart. The half that stayed at Waiwera were divided up again with the junior and senior campers. Seniors headed over to Wenderholm to do the perimeter hike around the mountain and then down to the beach to do orienteering and then back to camp to do bush cooking. The juniors did arts and crafts, beach combing and made cupcakes. After dinner, the group had chat before heading to the hot pools, where they spent the evening with two YMCA teen leaders. The chat question was purposefully lighthearted: *What Would You Chose as a Superpower?*

### **July 21, 2011**

EnZed started a little later this morning and headed to Orewa to meet the CEO of Age Concern, who gave a detailed briefing, outlining the problems the elderly face, as well as giving the group a few minutes to write down their goals for the next few days of working with the elderly. After that, everyone went to a retirement community to hear presentations on services available for the elderly. The group was surprised with a catered lunch and happily ate from a fantastic buffet, mingling and chatting with the elderly, even getting an invitation to surf at one gentleman's home. After lunch, the group headed back to Age Concern and participated in an abbreviated version of the Canadian Thru Other Eyes Program, which uses props (bandages, gloves, goggles, ear muffs) to simulate the process of aging and losing sensory perception. The group also had some free time in Orewa and ducked from store to store, avoiding our first NZ rain. Everyone got a little more down time at the Lodge when the group returned, before joining the Holiday

Campers for a steak dinner. After dinner, EnZed organized and ran the Holiday Camp campfire (indoors), adding in skits from Becket and Chimney while learning the Waiwera traditions too. EnZed skits included: I Have To Weeeee; I'm Peanuts; Jumping On Leg With The Other Leg Behind The Head; and many others, followed by an amazing performance of fire poi by Beki and Marcus, one of the volunteer teen leaders working with the Holiday Camp. The chat question was: *Having worked with older people today, did the goals you wrote down at Age Concern change in any way?*

### **July 22, 2011**

Everyone enjoyed another later start, since Orewa and Age Concern were only a ten minute drive away. After breakfast and packing lunches, everyone clambered into vans and headed to Age Concern for a quick cleanup of the Thru Other Eyes props, along with printing up some pictures of themselves going through the program the day before. Everyone even got to take a turn driving a mobility scooter, which surprised everyone with its speed and quick handling, especially when it would get stuck in full throttle! After an hour at Age Concern, everyone headed to the Evelyn Page Retirement Community, which was also in Orewa. The group got a brief introduction to the community and a small tour. Half the group spent a few minutes on the dementia ward, which is a wing that provides additional care and services for those residents whose cognitive abilities are lessening. One patient told how she had refused to make bullets during World War II and walked out on the job, even though she could have been arrested. The conversations were not easy, but the group handled the situation extremely well and gained a valuable new perspective. The other group got a more in-depth tour and everyone met up in another wing to spend time with residents. The group showed remarkable maturity and scattered themselves among the residents, offering conversation and showing pictures of America and their travels in NZ on their cameras. Everyone took a brief break for lunch and headed to the cafeteria for fish and chips, then back to the lounge for some serious BINGO! The group scattered again and paired up with the residents to help and play alongside. Prizes included NZ chocolates and the group had a blast and continued to display mature and sensitive behavior. The service ended with a Chimney song and a Becket song to close out the trip to Evelyn Paige. Everyone headed back to Age Concern for a quick debrief, then sang the Star Spangled Banner for Catherine, the CEO, who was very happy to hear it and extremely proud of the group. Back at Waiwera, everyone tidied up their cabins, before packing up and meeting their homestays!

### **July 23, 2011**

Homestays

### **July 24, 2011**

Homestays

### **July 25, 2011**

Beki and Emmily picked up everyone from homestays in a bus route fashion before the vans headed southwest to the Woodhill Equestrian Park, where everyone got tools and dove into the morning's service- clearing cutty grass (toi toi in Maori and pampas in the US)! The work was tough and the sky was overcast, but the group worked at a furious pace. One half started at the bottom of the trail and the other started at the top. In four hours, ICEP EnZed left a trail of destruction, with entire root balls upended and thrown to the side. The group was covered in

nicks and scratches from the appropriately named cutty grass and headed to the vans for the next adventure: Piha! After a short drive, the vans broke through the bush and stopped for an amazing overlook of the famous Piha beach. Lion Rock stood in the middle of two incredible beaches, with the tiny houses of Piha scattered on the steep hills. It was a cloudy day, but the sun broke through the clouds and lit up different sections of the windswept Abel Tasman Sea. Beautiful! The group headed down to the beach and began its assault on Lion Rock. Up, up, up until everyone had nearly a bird's eye view of the beach. The group took loads of pictures and spent time soaking in the view. Several group members headed down early to scratch ICEP NZ 11 into the sand, which made for great pictures from up high. It was a chilly day and the adventure ended in the Piha Café, where everyone got a hot drink and break from the wind before heading back to homestays.

### **July 26, 2011**

Homestay pickups came early again, as the group headed southwest again for a half-day of service in the beautiful Waitakere Range with Ark-in-the-Park. The rangers met up with ICEP NZ and everyone headed into the bush for another assault on non-native species. The target was ginger, which forms dense root systems that block native species. The rangers gave everyone loppers, herbicide, and trash bags for the seed pods. The bush was very dense and the group showed great planning and split up into cutters and poisoners. ICEP did a great job and the rangers showed their appreciation with a sausage sizzle in addition to the packed lunches. After service, everyone loaded the vans for a trip to Bethells Beach for sandboarding! The dunes were intimidating at first glance, but the group mustered its courage and hopped on boogie boards and sleds for the speedy trip down the dunes. Next up was trying to run down the dunes, followed by running and jumping down them. Everyone was covered in sand and had a blast. After the dunes, everyone headed back to their homestays for dinner and to clean their shoes for tomorrow's trip to an island sanctuary.

### **July 27, 2011**

Today was another early pickup and the group headed to Gulf Harbor to catch the ferry to Tiritiri Martangi Island. Everyone's shoes were appropriately spotless and the group split into thirds for a walking tour of Tiritiri. The guides were very knowledgeable and the group saw every rare bird Tiritiri had to offer, aside from the Kiwi, which is nocturnal. One of the highlights was seeing George the Takahe from only three feet away. There are only 240 Takahe left in the world and ICEP EnZed saw four of them up close. Everyone had lunch in a clearing near the former lighthouse, then went for a tramp which offered great views in every direction on a beautiful sunny day. The day at Tiritiri ended with getting to see little Blue Penguins up close in their nesting boxes before heading back on the ferry. It was extremely windy and those brave enough to stay outside were able to lean into the wind and stay upright! The amazing NZ light continued, with beautiful rays of sunlight breaking through the cloud cover that came in when the ferry departed Tiritiri. After landing, the group headed back to homestays.

### **July 28, 2011**

Homestay pickups were early again today and ICEP headed into Auckland for a tour of Eden Park, home of the All Blacks and site of the finals for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. The stadium looked amazing and the group got a chance to see the changing rooms and even run out of the tunnel toward the field. The next stop was a drive to the top of Mt. Eden, Auckland's tallest

(dormant) volcano and a sacred Maori site. Prince, a local Maori guide with ancestral ties to the Auckland area, gave the group a traditional welcome in song and speech, then offered a history of the mountain and the surrounding Auckland area through a Maori perspective. The group was very receptive and learned a great deal. The group hopped back in the vans and headed to the Auckland YMCA for free parking, before heading to Aotea Square in downtown Auckland. They split up and headed off to explore all that Auckland had to offer. After souvenir shopping, the group met back at the square and headed to the North Shore YMCA to meet with a local Raise Up group. Raise Up is a teen leadership group that organizes youth events in the Auckland area. After a brief introduction and snacks, the two groups took turns teaching each other icebreaker games and getting to know each other. It was a great experience and ICEP headed back to homestays for the last night.

### **July 29, 2011**

Today was the final pickup from homestays. After pickups, ICEP headed back to Wairwera Lodge for some down time and lunch, then it was off to Marahangi Regional Park for community service. The group split into two to plant two sections of the park by the beach. The Mud Hogs planted flax and water loving plants in a swampy section, while the Mountain Goats planted native trees on a steep hillside. ICEP NZ accomplished a lot and got a lovely treat of Tim Tams and biscuits from the ranger. Afterward, the group walked to a paddock and got to herd newborn lambs and their mother into a fresh paddock. Matt, the ranger and farmer, explained that the ewes can't be allowed to eat much in the latter stages of their pregnancy and after the lambs are born, he has to take them to a fresh paddock with long grass. The lambs were incredibly cute and didn't go easily, but ICEP NZ showed their versatility and herded well. The highlight of the project was holding one of the day-old lambs and snapping loads of pictures. The group headed back for any last laundry and packed up for the start of our road trip. Dinner was welcomed by all and a nice chance for the group to reconnect after a week of homestays. The chat question was: *What is the happiest moment in your life?*

### **July 30, 2011**

The first stop on the road trip was Rotarua in the new North and South Island vans. Beki created a competition for the travel time and every day on the road trip, ICEPers divided into the two vans, then answered trivia questions and completed tasks like making videos and performing songs at the end of the day. The drive to Rotarua was beautiful and included a stop at Matamata, which is nicknamed "Hobbiton", since the scenes from the *Lord of the Rings* were filmed a few miles outside of town. The group set up camp at Blue Lake Holiday Park, which sat on the edge of a stunning volcanic lake, surrounded by steep hills. After a few minutes of downtime, everyone headed back to Rotorua to Te Puia, which is a Maori cultural learning center. The group spent a few minutes in the gift shop before the extensive tour started. ICEP learned about the incredible thermal activity around Rotarua, saw geysers and mud pools; got to see two kiwis in an enclosure; were welcomed by a warrior in a traditional Maori greeting; watched a performance of Maori music; the boys learned the haka and the girls learned the poi; then ate a fabulous hangi dinner. The night ended with hot chocolate and sitting on thermally heated concrete steps, watching the geysers at night, backlit by spotlights. It was beautiful. After a quick jump start for one of the vans, ICEP zipped back to the holiday park for chat: *What is a routine you miss?*

### **July 31, 2011**

ICEP woke up to a stunningly beautiful day. Crystal clear blue skies and a bright sun were early highlights on the drive south to Tongariro National Park. On the drive south the vans passed Lake Taupo with unprecedented views of the park. Upon entering the park, the group ate lunch after a short walk to the Mounds, where there were 360 degree views of the mountains and the park. A trip to Whakapapa was next, where everyone wandered through the extensive visitor center, got hot drinks at Ferguson's Café and played a few games on the lawn of the chalet under the snowy slopes of Mt. Ngauruhoe. Beki and Emmily made sure everyone appreciated the weather and informed the group that they were the first ICEP to have even seen the mountains, let alone under a bright blue sky. On the way out of the park, the group stopped to hike to Tarwhai Falls, one of the waterfalls from the Lord of the Rings movie. Then it was on to Ruakawa YMCA (an outdoor education center) for lodging. Ruakawa had a farm setting, with many sheep within the center as well as around it. The group had some free time to play on the flying fox and hopped over stones to get to a sandy island in the creek next to the camp. After a dinner of lasagna in the kitchen and a game of mafia, the group had chat around the wood stove: *What is your favorite childhood memory?*

### **August 1, 2011**

ICEP woke early to a grey day and arrived in Wellington after a three hour drive. The group ate lunch on Mt. Victoria, which gave sweeping views of the town of Wellington and the surrounding waters. The rest of the day was spent exploring the town. The first stop for many was Te Papa, the national museum of NZ. The group had two hours to explore the museum, see the town, and do some souvenir shopping. After a quick meet up, the group requested another hour to explore and many ran back into Te Papa to see the giant embalmed squid. Later, everyone got back on the road and drove out to Camp Wainui. After a dinner of beef stir fry and a heated van competition, the group had chat: *If there was a movie about your life, which actor/actress do you think would play you?*

### **August 2, 2011**

The group had a very early start in order to make the 8:30 Interislander ferry to the South Island. The vans hit some morning traffic while driving back into Wellington, but made the ferry with time to spare. After exploring the different ferry decks, the group stumbled on a lounge reserved exclusively for ICEP. The group set up camp and spent the three hour trip exploring the ferry, meeting the captain (one of the van competition questions), sleeping, and hanging out on the top deck with magnificent views of the oncoming South Island. After docking in Picton, the group headed out along a very windy road which hugged cliffs above the Marlborough Sound. The group met up with a sea kayaking company and headed out on to Queen Charlotte Sound for four hours of kayaking. Highlights included the amazing weather and glassy water, plus getting within a few meters of some very playful New Zealand fur seals. After kayaking, everyone warmed up and hopped in the vans for another windy drive to Nelson and the Paradiso Hostel. It was the group's first night in a hostel and Paradiso was a great one. Everything about it oozed a cool backpackery vibe, plus each group member got ninety minutes of internet time (the iPhones were humming). After a delicious dinner of nachos and some time in the hot tub, plus the increasingly competitive intervans competition, the group had chat: *Who do you miss?*

### **August 3, 2011**

With two nights at Paradiso, the group could have a bit of a sleep in before heading out to Abel Tasman National Park. With packed lunches and water bottles, everyone shouldered their backpacks for an 8.2 km hike along the water. The weather continued to be amazing and the group felt like they were on a tropical island. The bush cleared and offered views of snow-capped mountains in the distance, combined with bright blue surf and sandy beaches. The group caught an aqua taxi for a speedy ride back to the starting point, interspersed with stops to see seals and learn more about local Maori mythology at Split Apple Rock. The aqua taxi drove right onto its trailer and the group had the odd experience of riding in a boat, on a trailer, behind a tractor back to the vans. After returning to Nelson, the group had a chicken and pasta baked dinner, then mixed it up during the van competition before settling down for chat: *What person is the biggest influence on your life?*

### **August 4, 2011**

This morning everyone packed up and loaded the vans before heading into Nelson for some free time to wander around. The town was very cool, with a great artsy vibe and cafés everywhere. After a few hours, the group loaded back up and had a hair-raising drive back to Picton, worried about making the ferry. At the ferry, the group headed right back to the lounge, hoping it would be reserved for ICEP again. It was! The three hour ride was spent lounging, dozing, watching the views, and preparing for the evening's competition. After arriving in Wellington, the group headed out to Camp Kaitoke, a YMCA camp about an hour from Wellington. It was the largest camp the group had stayed at and was lit up and welcoming as the vans drove in. After a delicious dinner of bangers and mash and the van competition, everyone settled in for chat: *Who is the biggest influence on your life?*

### **August 5, 2011**

ICEP NZ had an early wakeup, hoping to groom the horses at Camp Kaitoke. Aiden, the camp manager, told us that the horses would be better off staying in their rain coats in the drizzle and the group loaded up for the drive to Taupo. The two vans alternated between napping and prepping for the competition through the four hour drive. After checking into the YHA Hostel, the group walked a few blocks into town and got some free time to wander. Most of the group ended up at an excellent playground, which found its way into almost everyone's highlight of the day. Dinner was at BurgerFuel and it was every bit as good as Tim Murphy had said. After dinner, ICEP headed back to the hostel to have the van competition before heading back into town for a choice of movies: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2* or *Captain America*. Then it was back to the hostel for a late chat: *If you could have dinner with any person, real or imagined, living or dead, who would it be?*

### **August 6, 2011**

The group left the hostel early on the final day of the roadtrip. It was a brisk morning with a hard frost and ICEP headed to Huka Falls as the sun rose and started to burn off the foggy morning. Huka Falls was incredible, with a huge torrent of water slamming through a narrow gap and exploding out into a large pool. Emmily told us about her friend who had kayaked it, which seemed nearly impossible. The group loaded up the vans and got back on the road for the long drive to Waiwera. Beki and Emmily made great time and used a handy shortcut, which got the group back to Waiwera in early afternoon with enough time for a bit of relaxing before two

Raise Up groups from the Mt. Albert and North Shore YMCAs came to the lodge. The group had a quick conversation together about the Raise Up groups, then it was time to meet and greet. ICEP handled the situation extremely well, jumping in and shaking hands and carrying themselves like young leaders. Both groups, about forty people in all, walked down to the beach for name games and icebreakers, which went well and brought out everyone's silly side. Then it was back to Waiwera for some downtime and a barbeque dinner before heading to the hot pools. Everyone, Raise Up and ICEP, crowded into the movie pool for the All Blacks game against the Australia Wallabees, happening just down the road at Eden Park. The movie pool spontaneously burst into song with the NZ national anthem, which ICEP loved. Then it was time for the All Blacks to perform the Haka. It certainly worked, as the All Blacks trounced the Wallabees. Then it was back to Waiwera for a massive group chat with all the teens: *What is one place you would love to travel to?*

### **August 7, 2011**

This morning was a later start than most of the road trip. After breakfast, Beki divided everyone into five teams for the Amazing Race. The race was a series of tasks and a race against the clock, all through Waiwera and Wenderholm. It consisted of shelter building, inner-tube football, orienteering, climbing, the spider's web, and a kayak race (carried on land!). Everyone had fun and gathered for a final lunch together outside in the sun. Then the Raise Up groups gathered their things and, many hugs later, headed back to Auckland. ICEP EnZed had the rest of the afternoon off, which they filled with trips to the campground for laundry, ping pong, and dodging the on and off showers. After dinner and checking bags several times for a missing passport, the group had a late chat: *If you could redo one thing, what would it be?*

### **August 8, 2011**

The group woke up early and packed lunches before heading into Auckland and catching the ferry to Rangitoto for service. Part of the group stayed in Auckland and retraced the steps from a week ago to find a missing passport. And they did! The rest of the group hopped off the ferry at Rangitoto and climbed into trucks for a ride to Motutapu Island, which was basically connected to Rangitoto Island by a tiny land bridge. After picking up dozens of native trees, everyone loaded up again for the ride to a reclaimed paddock. The task was to plant large native trees, which would form a canopy over the bush in the coming years. ICEP worked hard and ran out of plants before lunch, which was on a sunny hillside in grass so high only heads were visible. After lunch, the group planted fifty more Pohutukowa and busted weeds before walking down the paddock and along the beach, where the volunteers gave a brief lesson on the island and gave a tour of an old homestead. Then it was back to the ferry and Auckland for a joyful reunion with the rest of the group and the formerly missing passport. ICEP had enough time for a slow walk back to Aotea Square and got one last wander through Auckland before meeting Beki at the YMCA. Everyone vanned up and headed back to Waiwera for a spaghetti dinner and laundry before packing up for the second road trip! Beki also split the group in two for the next road trip. Each group was responsible for choosing the menu, cooking the meal, and carrying the food on the hike through the Pinnacles. The chat question was:

### **August 9, 2011**

ICEP loaded up and headed for the Coromandel Peninsula. After a two hour drive, everyone offloaded and geared up for the six kilometer hike up the Kaori Path to the Pinnacles. Up, up, up

and the group kept their spirits high, stopping for lunch at a stream, before continuing up the path. Much of the trail was over stairs that were cut out of solid rock by loggers decades before. The views were outstanding and the weather was a perfect temperature for tramping. After making good time, the group arrived at the hut and set up camp. Then it was back outside for a five minute walk higher on the path to watch the setting sun and see the Pacific. The two meal groups cooked amazing dinners and spent some quality time in the kitchen, which was heated by a toasty coal-burning stove. After cleanup, everyone grabbed their warm clothes and sleeping bags and headed out to the porch for a moonlit two-part chat: *What do the stars mean to you? What is an emotional and physical scar you have?*

### **August 10, 2012**

The group had an early wakeup for a sunrise hike to the highest point in the Pinnacles. The weather continued to cooperate and ICEP had amazing views in almost every direction. The group took loads of pictures and spent a few minutes in silence, appreciating each other and the location. The trip back down was on the Billy Goat track, which was a longer path and offered different views, one of which was a stunning waterfall. Everyone was very happy to reach the vans and it was a quiet ride to Hahei Beach and the Hahei Holiday Park which was the lodging for the night. There were a few hours of downtime, which the group used to shower and explore the amazing beach or just chill and watch TV in the lounge. Dinner was shepard's pie, followed by the quintessential NZ cultural experience: watching Shortland Street, the Auckland-based soap opera. After cleanup, everyone headed to the beach for an amazing chat under the stars, followed by singing camp songs and some quiet group games. The chat question was: *As you drive through the desert at night, you come to an abandoned town with a red light. What do you do?*

### **August 11, 2011**

Some of the group woke up early, hoping to see the sun rise over the Pacific. It was pouring rain, but many still braved the downpour and stay on the beach in rain gear, watching the sky lighten over the ocean. After making lunches and eating breakfast, the group loaded up and drove ten minutes to Hot Water beach. With shovels in hand, the group ran to the steaming sand and started digging. As soon as the first hole was finished, the sun came out and the clouds cleared. ICEP spent a few hours in the sandy hot tubs, then rinsed in the ocean before heading to Cathedral Cove. The weather stayed amazing and the forty-five minute walk to the cove was beautiful. Coming down the hill, EnZed was greeted with one of the most beautiful sights in New Zealand. White sand beaches, a waterfall, and the massive triangular arch of solid rock. The beach was nearly abandoned and the group settled down for a quiet lunch, soaking in the beauty. Everyone took pictures and, after a few hours, reluctantly left to start the hike back to the vans. After a two hour drive to Waiwera, the group had a lovely dinner of fish and chips from Woody's down the road and crammed into the schoolhouse to watch *Date Night* on DVD. The chat topic was: *What is the best gift you have ever received?*

### **August 12, 2011**

ICEP NZ enjoyed a bit of a sleep in before heading to Orewa and Silverdale for last minute souvenir shopping and wandering. Silverdale offered a store with inexpensive rugby gear and another with some of the best meat pies of all time. Back in Orewa, almost everyone ended up in the super market, loading up on NZ chocolate and candy for gifts. Then it was back to the lodge

for a hamburger lunch and van cleaning, before heading north to the Omaha Marae for the night. ICEP received a traditional Maori welcome and settled into the marae for a relaxing afternoon of reading, cards, and spending time with each other. After a tasty lasagna dinner, the group finished their final CCRs and spent more time with each other, conscious of the end of the trip. Cabin chat entailed making a spider's web of yarn from person to person offering a thank you and praise for each group member's contributions. At the close of chat, the group cut the yarn and made bracelets from the web.

### **August 13, 2011**

The last full day in New Zealand. ICEP woke up for an early breakfast and left the marae sparkling. A Maori elder met the group and gave a blessing in Maori and translated, before wishing the group safe travels. After leaving the marae, the group headed to the Matakama markets. ICEP had an hour and a half to wander the markets and shops, eating mussel fritters, meat pies, and loads of free samples. Next up was Sheep World! First stop was the gift shop, which was stocked with amazing slippers and everything else sheep-related. Then everyone headed out to the petting zoo, fully stocked with food pellets for sheep, rabbits, mini horses, alpacas, pigs, and emus. Last was the Sheep World show with a demonstration of the way sheep dogs work (amazing), how to sort sheep, shearing (with a few ICEP participants), then, everyone's favorite, feeding and holding baby lambs. Back at Waiwera, ICEP did one last load of laundry and packed up before the final dinner with several homestay families. Dinner was amazing, with roast lamb and chicken, roasted veggies (including kumura) and fantastic deserts. Everyone gathered in the schoolhouse for a group picture before the homestay families left, then took a few minutes to pack before the final New Zealand cabin chat: *What is one thing you will take from the trip?*

### **August 14, 2011**

After an early wakeup to make lunches and eat breakfast, ICEP NZ loaded up the vans and trailer for the trip to the airport. It was a quiet ride and the check in went smoothly. It was a sad goodbye to Emmily and Beki, then off through security to the gate. The flight from Auckland was uneventful, aside from the amazing sight of the rising full moon on one side of the plane and the setting sun on the other. LAX was smooth as well, as the group picked up their luggage, went through customs, then rechecked the bags for the final leg to JFK, which was also uneventful, aside from the fact that it was still the same day somehow. After picking up the bags and eating a quick dinner at the airport, ICEP met the bus and quickly loaded up for the return to camp. It was a long and rainy drive, but spirits were high, especially at the beginning before everyone started napping. The group unloaded and set up camp in Four Seasons before chat: *What did you struggle with on the trip and what did you learn from it?*

### **August 15, 2011**

ICEP EnZed woke up fairly early, somewhere between Waiwera and camp time. After breakfast, the group headed to the Health Center for health checks, which found lots of sand in everyone's ears. Then it was back to the dining hall for a debrief with Alysa and Nat and lunch. Afterward, everyone buckled down in the dining hall for final CCR meetings, bus notes, and selecting the 100 pictures for the slide show. Work stopped for a few games of mafia, and then it was back to the grindstone. Everyone's spirits were high and the afternoon passed quickly in each other's company. ICEP NZ led a rousing rendition of Mountain Dew after dinner and

headed back to Four Seasons to finish bus notes and practice the slide show. The final chat worked through the seven levels of friendship, from meeting someone on the street to silently saying goodbye to a good friend for the last time. The group stayed up late, happy to spend their final night on New Zealand time.

### **August 16, 2011**

EnZed closed the summer in typical fashion. The group was up early and completely packed after breakfast. Four Seasons was spotless and the bags were at the Barn on time for the slideshow and pickup. With a light lunch, everyone took turns narrating the slideshow to the appreciative parents. A few lingering goodbyes later and ICEP New Zealand went home.

## **SERVICE PROJECTS**

### **July 18, Raroa Project- 7 hours:**

ICEP NZ worked with Peter Pierce, a volunteer for the Hibiscus Coast branch of the Royal Forrest and Bird, Inc. at the Raroa Project. The project was based at Stanmore Bay, Whangaporoa and aimed to provide urban bush habitat for native birds and skinks. ICEP cleared non-native kikuri grass from the stems and bases of native plants, which allowed the native species more light and water. The work was very physical, but was also an excellent start to ICEP's service work since subsequent projects were easier by comparison. At the end of the day, each group member got a tree to plant, which Peter had grown from seed.

### **July 19- 8 hours**

- **North Shore YMCA:** Half of ICEP NZ went to Auckland's North Shore YMCA, which ran a holiday camp for children on a two week school vacation. While there, they divided again with Heather and Emmily each staying with a group. Heather's group went to Butterfly Creek, a nature preserve, while Emmily's group stayed at the YMCA and facilitated games with the campers. This service project was a good experience, largely because ICEP got to work with young children for the first time, but also because of the learning experience observing a very different camp experience and leadership style.
- **YMCA Waiwera Lodge Holiday Camp:** The remaining group stayed at Waiwera Lodge and led a morning wakeup activity, followed by breakfast and the morning's activities. Half stayed with the younger campers (juniors) and went on a hike through Wenderholm, while the older campers and three ICEPers paddled the Puhoi River. The afternoon consisted of archery and belaying on the climbing wall.

## **July 20- 8 hours**

- **North Shore YMCA:** The groups from the previous day switched. At North Shore, the group divided again. Half went with Hans to the NZ Naval Museum with the younger campers. ICEP did a great job in the museum, working closely with the campers and taking an active leadership role in all activities. The museum was interesting and there were enough campers that someone always needed help. Those that stayed at the YMCA led activities and watched a police dog demonstration and a traveling science show.
- **YMCA Waiwera Lodge Holiday Camp:** The ICEPers that stayed at Waiwera helped with an orientation course in Wenderholm, more kayaking with the younger campers, baking, bush cooking, hiking, and arts and crafts.

## **July 21, Age Concern Rodney- 6 hours**

ICEP NZ worked with Age Concern Rodney, the local branch of a national non-profit advocacy group for the elderly. Age Concern Rodney's CEO is Katherine Hayes. Katherine started the morning with a very detailed explanation of Age Concern's role in the community, as well as the role of everyone in her office. The group then went to Hibiscus Coast Retirement Village to hear a series of speakers. The organizers invited the group to stay for lunch and the campers made the morning extremely positive, getting food and spreading out to different tables to eat and talk with the potential residents. Back at Age Concern, the group split in half. Each group took turns making a card for the retirement community they would visit the next day and participating in an abbreviated version of the Thru Other Eyes program. Campers donned blurry goggles, ear muffs, ankle and wrist weights, elbow wraps and several pairs of gloves to simulate the process and challenges of aging. They then tried to accomplish basic tasks, such as making tea and getting into a vehicle.

## **July 22, Age Concern Rodney- 7 hours**

ICEP NZ again worked with Age Concern Rodney. The morning began by sorting the props for the Thru Other Eyes course from the previous day and trying out the mobility scooters and walkers. The group then went to the Evelyn Page Retirement Community in Orewa and had a brief tour, including a few minutes in the dementia ward, speaking with patients who had impaired cognitive abilities. The group then headed to a more independent ward and spent the next several hours in conversation and playing BINGO with the residents. The boys and girls both sang camp songs and joined together to sing the national anthem. It was an extremely positive experience for the group. Back at Age Concern, Katherine attempted to debrief the group, most of whom seemed somewhat uncomfortable with her and the office in general. The group then joined together and sang the national anthem at Katherine's request.

## **July 25, Woodhill Equestrian Park- 4 hours**

ICEP NZ spent the morning clearing overgrown pampas grass from a horse track owned by a regional YMCA. It was hard work which offered very visible results. The volunteers were very supportive and thankful. The campers enjoyed the four hour day.

**July 26, Ark in the Park- 4 hours**

ICEP NZ worked with park rangers to remove an invasive species of ginger, part of Ark in the Park's mission to control the spread of non-native species in an attempt to restore the natural ecology in the Waitakere Range. Campers divided into four groups, each with a leader and ranger or volunteers. They had to remove and bag seed pods, then cut the ginger at the base and apply an herbicide. The ranger demonstrated the proper use of the herbicide. All participants had gloves and the rangers had extras in case they didn't. The campers felt this service was the most valuable they had performed yet.

**July 29, Mahurangi Regional Park- 4 hours**

ICEP NZ worked with Matt, a park ranger and farmer, to plant native species in the Mahurangi Regional Park. Beki showed the plantings the previous four ICEP groups had done, which was one of the highlights of this project. The group divided into Mud Hogs and Mountain Goats and each group was responsible for planting in a swampy area or on the side of a reclaimed paddock on a hillside. The group worked well and the weather cooperated nicely. As the day closed, Matt offered up lots of biscuits and the group followed him into a pasture to help shepherd several mother ewes and their newborn lambs to fresh grass. The group loved it and Matt allowed everyone to take a turn holding the day old lambs, which made everyone's highlight. This service project was very rewarding, because of both the lambs and working where previous ICEP trips had come.

**August 8, Motutapu Park- 5 hours**

ICEP NZ took the ferry from Auckland with ten campers, Hans, and Emmily. The service was planting on Motutapu, an island which is connected to Rangitoto by a small land bridge. ICEP worked especially hard and planted all the canopy trees early and spent the remainder of the morning knocking the tops off of invasive thistle. The group planted more trees in the afternoon and briefly hiked around sections of the park.