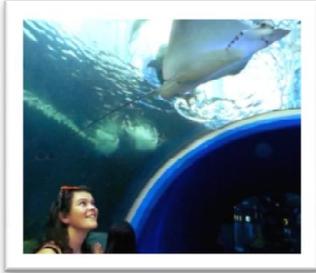


Introducing New Student



Miss Clare Leyland, Cultural Exchange Student from Waimea College, New Zealand

I was born on the 10th of June 1998 and I am 15 years old. I was asked to write a description of myself. Honestly, I do not really know how to respond to this but my friends have said that I should ‘analyze’ myself. So some of my favorite things in life are colors black and gold, my dog, my family, my friends, lasagna, tramping, and experiencing new things. I was born in Kenya and lived there for 8 years. my family and I then moved to UK where we stayed for 4 years and finally moved to New Zealand in 2010 to live on a farm where we have been for 3 years and a half. While living Africa, I was lucky enough to visit many places and so have seen many things in my life that many other people are given the chance to. I enjoy meeting different people and sharing new experiences. Because we live on a farm in New Zealand and the school is some distance away, I have boarded at my school for a couple of years so I am used living away from home already.

Throughout my travels I have only been in Asia once (Hong Kong) which was an interesting experience. I would like to see more of it. I am in year 11 in New Zealand and young for my age group. Because of this, I can study in Thailand for a year and then come back and repeat year 12, therefore not missing out on any schooling. A study year in Thailand is the perfect opportunity because not only will I gain knowledge and experiences I will also be able to learn a language and create a strong connection between Waimea College and Satriwitthaya 2 School. Thailand seems to have a fascinating culture and the people are very friendly so I am really excited to be here.

I arrived in Thailand on the 12th of May, admittedly I was incredibly scared, but once the friendly faces, my fears disappeared. It was a week before school started and I made the most of those seven days. My host family and I went to beaches, malls and my favorite place, temples. The expectation of the temples being amazing was surpassed to them being extraordinary.

When school started I made my introduction by performing a speech in front of 2,500 students, I’m still not used to the number of people who are constantly around. However after a huge round of applause for my nervous speech, I felt welcome, like I was going to be a part of this community. The students and teachers were extremely welcoming, constantly saying hello, or attempting to speak in English. Although I miss my friends and family, and western food, the journey has been amazing already, and I’m feeling happier and more comfortable every day. So thank you Thailand and all of Satriwitthaya 2 for welcoming me.