

New Zealand



New Zealand and Australia - a pilot project

- Originally, I planned the voyage to New Zealand and to Australia – the first two countries – as sightseeing trips through both countries with their most fascinating landscapes and cities.
- When I realised that I had a few days not fully planned through by the organised tour, the idea came up to meet people being involved as stakeholders and professionals for childhood disability and a concept was rapidly developed together with my long-standing colleague Sabine Vincon, currently working on her PhD in Great Britain and Ireland, and with Christine Imms, the current President of the IAACD, living in Melbourne / Australia.
- The spontaneous pilot project went quite successful although not all the people I wanted to have interviews could be met in the limited time windows.
- Not only the landscape was extremely impressive but also the people were very welcoming.
- A big thank to the parents of the Cerebral Palsy Society New Zealand who arranged a nice barbecue just on a Saturday afternoon and who opened their hearts to share their thoughts!

The Northern Island – modern towns, Maori culture, hot springs, old volcanos, rain forest and subtropical islands

New Zealand at its best!





The Southern Island – full of natural beauties beaches and spectacular cliffs, mountains and glaciers, wild rivers and quiet lakes, desert region and a lot of sheep ...





Skyline of Auckland from the terrace of Dan's and Amy's house

Amy and Dan from Auckland were the first hosts. Further Meg and Emma met with me. All from the CP Group New Zealand



Meg



Dan

Amy

Dan, Amy and India-Rose (10yrs) – the first hosts



Emma



India-Rose

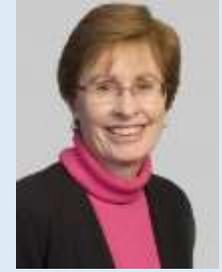
The „pilot“ experiences:
First interviews with parents from the Cerebral palsy Society in New Zealand (<https://cerebralpalsy.org.nz>)

-> Recordings presented at our website under eacd-iaacd2025.org



Within the given time window I was grateful to meet Professor Sue Stott and some members of her team for dinner. Professor Sue Stott is a Chief Investigator on the CRE, New Zealand lead, a member of the Clinical Trials Theme and Chair of the New Zealand CP Register.

We had a good exchange; unfortunately, there was no occasion for a video recording.



Thus, I had to wait for the first interview with a professional until I reached Christchurch; the city was severely affected by an earthquake in 2011. Until today restoration works (e.g. Cathedral) are going on.

Gaela Kilgour, physiotherapist,
IAACD GC Member –
Interview with the first professional



Here, it was great luck to meet Gaela Kilgour, a physiotherapist and member of the Governing Council of the IAACD.

Gaela has experienced the earthquake some years ago, went to Australia and then came back for a restart in New Zealand.

She gave a remarkable overview of the situation of health and social care in New Zealand with respect to childhood disability.

