Coromandel Outdoor Language Centre

LEARN ENGLISH
IN NEW ZEALAND

learning by doing

www.activity.co.nz

About Us

Coromandel Outdoor Language Centre (COLC) was founded in 1988 by Maurice Kirby with the aim of providing a high standard of English tuition in a setting capable of offering a truly unique New Zealand experience.

Today, the new owners, Kim and Robyn Lawry, continue to look for new ways to make your stay interesting and enjoyable, while continuing to develop the curriculum and course options.

We teach communicative English in small classes with a maximum of 10 students. We believe in 'learning by doing' where English learning takes place in real life situations beyond the classroom, with real tasks and interactions with local people.

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Where We Are

New Zealand
With a worldwide reputation for a clean, green environment, stunning natural beauty and friendly welcoming people, our beautiful country will definitely live up to your expectations.

Coromandel Peninsula
Situated only two and a half hours from Auckland city, the Coromandel Peninsula, with its forests, golden beaches and vast stretches of rugged coastline, is truly one of the most beautiful areas of NZ.

Whitianga
Whitianga is a popular holiday destination with New Zealanders and international tourists. We have an excellent variety of restaurants, bars and cafes. The local people enjoy a relaxed lifestyle which often includes ocean activities such as fishing, surfing and boating. Students are often surprised and delighted by how informal and friendly their host families are. Relaxing at the beach, watching the night sky, exploring the bush and coastline are all part of our students' enjoyment of Whitianga.

The School
COLC is located in a renovated old Kauri villa beside the Whitianga harbour and only a few minutes walk from the centre of town. The original part of the building is one of the oldest houses in town and is surrounded by beautiful grounds that are available for games and students' recreation.

Activities

The activities program runs every afternoon and offers students new challenges and opportunities to try different things. The variety of activities offered combined with our unique location is what makes this school so different from any other English language school you could visit in New Zealand.

On activities our experienced teachers will share with you their intimate knowledge of the local environment and you will visit wonderful marine and rural locations that other visitors to the Peninsula would not have access to. From action packed adventures like surfing, confidence courses, fishing, High Zone and kayaking, to more leisurely ones like beach and bush walks, bone carving and pottery, our unique program offers exciting opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Nearly all of our students try activities for a least a short time, and the majority wish they had started sooner. This is a wonderful way to see what the Coromandel Peninsula has to offer and to enjoy 'learning by doing' while interacting with teachers, local artists and personalities.

Courses

We offer a range of courses and activities to suit individual students preferences. Morning lessons, Monday to Friday, are the basic component of all our courses, and students can choose from a variety of afternoon study options or activities.

General Course
This is our most popular course. Morning lessons are supported by additional classes in the afternoons. In these communication classes, students learn how to use English in real situations and often go out into town to meet and talk to local people in a variety of locations. Students have free time on Friday afternoons.

Examination Preparation Course
For those students wanting to pass exams, morning lessons are followed by 2 hours of intensive exam preparation in the afternoons. Students develop their skills for all aspects of the exam, focusing on examination techniques. Students have free time on Friday afternoons.

Full-time with Activities
This unique and popular course combines morning lessons and outdoor activities in the afternoons.

English Plus 3
This course combines morning lessons with 3 afternoon activities (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday). On the other days students can enjoy free afternoons or have one-to-one lessons.

We also have additional English Plus courses where students do morning lessons and a special activity in the afternoons, such as NZ cooking, golf or bone-carving. More details are available on **www.activity.co.nz**.

Accommodation

Homestay
We regard homestay as a very important part of our programme. Our host families feel that they are part of the school, and enjoy the privilege of having students from other cultures to stay with them. The school ensures that the homes are of a high standard, and that families are made aware of the challenges which foreign students face in adapting to New Zealand life. Unless specially requested, we do not place two students from the same nationality with the same host family.

International Lodge
Students can also stay at the International Lodge, just a 5 minute walk from school, where they will have a comfortable room and can share the well equipped kitchen. This is a friendly and enjoyable option for students who do not wish to stay with a family.

Open Night

Every Wednesday night the school is open for a supervised social gathering. Because COLC is a small school, everyone knows one another, so open nights are a fun way to welcome new students into the COLC family and provide a further opportunity to practise English in a social setting.

Open-school activities are often initiated by the students themselves and we have had regular BBQs, games evenings, international meals prepared by different national groups, movies, music, singing and dancing. Whatever form they take, open nights are always popular and well attended.

Quality criteria and affiliations
Like all well established NZ schools, COLC is registered by NZQA and accredited to provide 'English as a foreign Language' under section 259 of the NZ Education Act 1989.

We are also members of English New Zealand, an organisation of 27 reputable schools that requires very high academic standards for membership. COLC is also a member of IALC (International Association of Language Centres), which is an association of quality, independent language schools from all around the world.

COLC is a signatory to the Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students.

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since 1988

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IALC
International Association of Language Centres

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