

Unit 5 - Tare (New Zealand)

Well I'm originally from New Zealand and, yeah, I was born and bred in a small little, town of about 4000 people. Uh, from there I moved to ... uh ... the big, bright lights of Sydney Australia and yeah, it was a little bit of a culture shock going from a town of 4000 people to a town of—uh ... well a city of 5 million and yeah, I spent 7 years in— in Sydney before finally moving to the UK and I've been here now for ... uh ... just over 3 years.

I think, you know, growing up in New Zealand I tended to— to take it for granted. Um, it's not 'til later on in life that I've done a bit of travelling, that I realised how visually stunning New Zealand actually is. Um, you know, I could look out my kitchen window growing up and, you know, see mountains in the background— snow-capped mountains. Uh, within a fifteen minute drive I could be at the beach ... um ... a ten minute walk - down at the river ... uh ... it's ... um ... pretty much got everything. It's got mountains, beaches, lakes, desert ... um ... yeah I mean it's pretty much got everything in—in—in the one country.

Um, the— the people in New Zealand are— are very friendly. Uh, a lot of comparisons are drawn to, sort of, the UK, maybe, 40 years ago. Um, you know, it's a— it's a very sort ... of humble nature you know everybody knows everybody, which can be a little bit awkward at times. But ... uh ... it is a nice feeling to walk down the street in the morning and everybody says hello, even if you don't know them. And ... um ... you know, it—it—it is quite unique as well that we do have a— a Maori culture and it is quite ... um ... well respected. I know a lot of indigenous people around the world sort of ... uh ... you know, not really— I don't— I— I'm not sure quite how to put it. But ... um ... you know, the Maori culture definitely is held in high regard in New Zealand. The Maori language is officially renowned as a— a language, and ... you know, although we only make up a small percentage of the population in New Zealand it's ... you know, interesting to see that— especially when you travel abroad to see England a lot of the ... um ... you know the European-descended New Zealanders do take on the— the Maori culture to I guess try and identify tha— you know— how— identify that they're from New Zealand when they're travelling abroad.