To all Arcadia students studying at Victoria University Semester 1 2005:

The purpose of Orientation:
Orientation is a time for:
- Getting to know the other students studying in other parts of NZ
- Getting over the jet lag
- Getting to know Jane, and Kate as we will be key resources for you in NZ
- Getting to know how the university system in New Zealand differs from your school back home
- Getting some general knowledge on NZ including history, geography, local fauna and flora, Maori culture, and the political system.
- Getting to relax and enjoy some of the tourist activities

Throughout orientation you are always welcome to express concerns and ask questions.

Day-by-day itinerary

Saturday 5 February
We should get to the Kiwi International Queen St Hotel (on Auckland’s main street) at around 9.00 am. It is unlikely that many will be able to check in early but there will be an opportunity to phone home and freshen up.

At 9.00 am your day in Auckland will really begin with the difficult goal of staying awake until 8 pm. 9.00 am would also be a good time for any students who weren’t on the group flight to meet up with us.

So at 9.00 am we will start with a stroll around Queen St and walk down to the viaduct where the America’s Cup yacht races took place in 2003. People will have a chance to change money and buy something to eat.

At midday the bus will pick us up and take us up Mt Eden to see the views, across to Cheltenham Beach (where we’ll walk up North Head) and then across to Kelly Tarlton’s Underwater World where we will see wonderful sea life including penguins and sharks.

We will get back to the hotel around 4 pm, freshen up and leave for a nice restaurant at 5 pm. By 7.30 pm we should be back at the Kiwi International Hotel and you can get some well-deserved sleep.
Sunday 6 February (Waitangi Day)
After breakfast in the hotel, we will all assemble in the hotel foyer around 9.15 am and board our bus which will take us to Rotorua – a tourist town about three hours from Auckland. The bus journey is when key information about NZ is presented and discussed. We will arrive in time to see the Rainbow Springs farm show and then do the guided walk where you will have the opportunity to see trout, kiwi and tuatara.

Around 4 pm we will check in at the Lake Plaza Hotel situated on the edge of Lake Rotorua and close to the centre of town. Once you are checked in you are free to stroll around town, visit an internet café, buy dinner….whatever you wish. Anyone wanting a hot spa can join Jane and Kate in the foyer of the Lake Plaza at 8 pm and walk across to the Polynesian Spa where for around $12NZ you can soak in natural hot mineral water pools (see www.polynesianspa.co.nz the radium and priest pools). The spa is a great place to chat, unwind and soak under the stars. It closes at 11 pm.

Monday 7 February
After a big buffet breakfast at the Lake Plaza Hotel, we will board the bus around 9.15 am and drive to Waiotapu (see www.geyserland.co.nz) – the geothermal park where we will see the Lady Knox geyser erupt at 10.15 am and then walk around the park. We will get back to the hotel at approx. 12pm. Students will have a two hour lunch break and then we will meet again in the hotel foyer and take the bus to the zorbing park. Zorbing is great fun (see www.zorb.com) – you will be provided with wet water gear, driven to the top of a hill and encouraged to jump inside a huge plastic ball. When there are three students and some warm water inside, the ball is released and you will experience the thrill of zorbing – truly great fun!! Definitely bring your cameras for that.

After zorbing there will be a couple of hours to relax before we are collected and taken to the Tamaki Brothers Maori Village experience for a traditional Maori welcome, a concert of Maori song and dance and a Maori dinner (hangi). We will be encouraged to sing songs on the bus ride home so I hope we have some good hearty singers in the group.

Tuesday 8 February
Once again, breakfast will be provided at the hotel and then there will be a last chance to sort out paperwork with Jane and Kate and some time to pack up and get organised. Jane will accompany you all on the flight to Wellington (please note that there is a $5 airport tax at Rotorua airport) and she will be there to help get everyone to their accommodation on the shuttles provided by Victoria International Office. Jane will also be with you the next morning for your first session with staff at Victoria International Office.

Please note:

All accommodation costs over orientation are covered. Costs are covered for all the activities except for the hot spa, which is optional. Breakfasts and two dinners
are covered but please ensure you bring enough money to pay for lunches and one evening meal.