

# Wellington, New Zealand

**Thomas Daniel**, 2 Bedford Row

For the last three months of 2013, I was fortunate to leave behind the cruel British winter in favour of spending three months in Wellington, New Zealand.

I was placed with Luke, Cunningham & Clere (LCC), which is the office of the Crown Solicitor for Wellington. As such, the firm is responsible for all of the criminal prosecutions in the region.

During my time at LCC, I worked on a wide variety of cases, both from a familiar criminal perspective and also in relation to a large civil claim arising out of the global financial crisis. The staff at LCC immediately made me feel like one of the team, and I was able to assist by drafting paperwork and helping the more senior advocates with some of their trial preparation, before appearing as their junior in the trial.

I was completely taken aback at the level of generosity and kindness shown to me whilst I was visiting. The Supreme Court Justices even hosted a drinks reception for the visiting

and I was constantly astounded as we drove around each corner and a new spectacular view appeared.

The highlights of these trips included taking a flying lesson around Kapiti Island; trekking through the beautiful Abel Tasman National Park; skydiving and paragliding in the party town that is Queenstown; riding the jet boat through the rapids in Lake Taupo; wine tasting in the Wairarapa; and renting a holiday home in the Hawke's Bay with the other juniors at LCC.

I owe special thanks to Kathy and Jono for putting me up in their flat right on Wellington's Oriental Parade. When Kathy (a junior at LCC) emailed to offer me their spare room, she attached a link to the Google street view of their place. As I panned around and saw the stunning view across Wellington Harbour from their front door, I have to say I thought it was a wind-up. It puts my view of the opposing ex-council block in north London to shame!

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Pegasus Scholars at the Supreme Court, before inviting us back to watch the court in session.

At the weekends, apart from sampling Wellington's nightlife, the once-in-a-lifetime nature of this trip meant that little time was wasted as we packed the car up and went on adventures to different parts of the country. The scenery in New Zealand means it is a country made for taking road trips,

To broaden my experience, Tim Smith (a member of the Pegasus Committee and partner at LCC) arranged for me to spend the last few weeks of my stay at Crown Law, which is a unique entity that, amongst other things, represents the Crown on criminal appeals. As with everyone I encountered, the staff at Crown Law were extremely welcoming, and I was fortunate that they managed to arrange for me to appear as a junior in the Court of Appeal and to assist with drafting submissions that ultimately went before the Supreme Court.

I am immensely grateful to the Pegasus Trust for allowing me to travel to such a wonderful country and to experience their legal system first-hand. It is certainly an experience I shall never forget and one from which I learned a tremendous amount.

**Thomas Daniel**

