



# The William Colenso College Malaysia connection

## A SPECIAL LINK WITH MALAYSIA

The International Director at William Colenso College, Robin Stewart, has a special connection with Malaysia. He worked as a teacher/principal in Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore for ten years. His wife, Kathy, is Bidayuh/Chinese from Sarawak and still has family living in Kuching, Miri and Brunei. One of their two sons was born in Brunei and both of their children began their very early education in Sabah.



Right: *International Director Robin Stewart and his Malaysian wife, Kathy.*

Following are comments by former Colenso students from Malaysia.

### Olivia Goh: *Batchelor of Engineering (Hons)*

I came to New Zealand after completing my PMR examinations. I had my doubts about coming to New Zealand then as I did not know anything about the country and it would be my first time away from home. These doubts dissipated within a week of settling down in Napier. My host family did heaps to help me feel at home by treating me like one of the family. Everyone at school was friendly, Kiwis and International Students alike. It is interesting to meet different students from all around the world (Germany, Korea, Japan, Denmark, etc.), getting to know their cultures and building strong friendships.



Olivia Graduates from William Colenso College

The international student trips were always a thing to look forward to every other term. The education system here is drastically different from the Malaysian system. I loved the change as it gave me the freedom to choose all my subjects. In addition to doing core science subjects such as Maths and Physics, I had the opportunity to do interesting courses such as Classical Studies, Social Studies and Tourism.



Olivia graduates from Canterbury University

Even though I am not much of an athlete, I played in the Second XI girls' soccer team and captained the badminton team. In Colenso, you get an opportunity to represent your school no matter what your skill level is as long as you have the passion for the sport. What I found most beneficial about Colenso is that it gets me years ahead of my peers in Malaysia. For example, when they were in Upper Six, I was already halfway through my degree and now, while they are still in their second or third year in University, I have graduated and started work. After completing my University Entrance exam in Colenso, I entered University of Canterbury to pursue a degree in Engineering. I completed my degree and received a job offer two months before my final exams. Currently, I am working as a process engineer in a pulp and paper mill in New Zealand. I can safely say that the decision to come to New Zealand is the best decision that I have made in my life. It is the stepping stone to my future.

### THE STORY CONTINUES .....

As a footnote, Olivia's younger twin brothers, Jeremy and Jason, followed Olivia to New Zealand. They both gained their University Entrance at William Colenso College and went on to university in New Zealand. One has completed his degree in Psychology, the other in Forestry. Truly a family success story!!



## JERRY LIEW from KUALA LUMPUR

I never thought that I would come to New Zealand. To tell the truth, I never thought I would go anywhere after my SPM. Anyway, it is good to study over here. I can choose my favourite subjects and the teachers and other students are really friendly. They give me all the help I need. Oh! Did I mention that the air here is fresh and cool. It's really the right place for me to study. I have had a lot of experiences here that I could never have in Malaysia.

I love it here!!



## CHRISTMAS TAN from BINTULU, SARAWAK

I came to New Zealand in March last year. I have been studying in William Colenso College for nearly a year and I am enjoying my study here. William Colenso College offers lots of subjects that I could never study in my school back in Malaysia such as drama, photography, barista, graphics, lifestyle and outdoor education. My favourite subject is Graphics. Our teacher gives us lots of freedom to present our ideas on graphics design. I finished an apartment design last year. Currently, I am working on a furniture design assignment. Another subject that I enjoy is Outdoor Education. We always have outdoor trips. Students are required to participate in every class activity. I have taken part in climbing, tramping, high ropes and kayaking. The high ropes course is about 12.5 metres above the ground and we need to traverse along with two wires!! Kayaking is a very interesting activity. The feeling of paddling through the rapids is so amazing!

I love this subject because it gives me lots of chances to experience extreme activities and all the activities are full of challenges. William Colenso College provides International students with extra English lessons to improve their English level. I have had 3 periods of extra English lessons called ESOL when I first came to New Zealand. I found it very helpful. Now, my English is much better than before. I enjoy studying in William Colenso College. I have more confidence to talk to local students. Everyone is friendly and willing to help. Studying abroad is definitely not easy, but I have a wonderful experience studying in William Colenso College – it's awesome!!

*(When Christmas left Colenso she went on to study at Eastern Institute of Technology here in Napier. Her younger brother also studied at William Colenso College.)*

