

# Charlie's Awesome Kiwi Holiday

By Jill Kemp

Photographs by Jayden Metcalfe and Todd Kemp.



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Charlie left Brisbane airport wearing his All Blacks jersey.  
His dad is a Kiwi and they support the All Blacks  
unless the Aussies are winning!



After a twelve hour day from Brisbane to Tauranga,  
Charlie relaxed and watched cricket.  
Of course Australia was playing!





Charlie and the family visit their Great Nanny in her retirement village in Tauranga. Great Nanny is nearly 93 years old.



Charlie and Margot went for a swim in the hot pool at the retirement village. Nanny was so proud be able to take her great grand children swimming.





She was surprised how well they could both swim and how confident they both were in the water.



Next day they went to stay at a bach beside Lake Tarawera with Uncle Chris, Aunty Tami, Teegan and Jayden. Uncle Chris got a cricket bat ready for Charlie.





Anyone who was willing bowled and bowled,  
because Charlie never gets tired of playing  
cricket and he has incredible talent!





Charlie went out on the lake with  
Uncle Chris and Jayden in the boat.  
Uncle Chris let him take a turn steering.



Charlie had a ride behind the boat on a biscuit.  
It was such fun, especially going fast.  
“Faster Jayden, faster!”





He loved knee boarding fast behind the boat.  
It was exciting jumping over the wake.  
Charlie was awesome!



He quickly learnt how to paddle  
the kayak and spent many happy  
hours trying to catch the birds.





He tried standing up and paddling too.  
It was hard work, but great fun. The weather  
was so nice that he played in the water for hours.



Charlie showed his fancy tricks  
to Uncle Chris and his sister Margot.  
Impressive Charlie!





Early in the morning Charlie went with Uncle Chris  
in his boat, trout fishing on Lake Tarawera.  
Charlie is very proud of the first fish he has ever caught!



Uncle Chris showed Charlie how to make the mixture which he put it all over the fish fillets. He left them to marinade for 20 minutes, to absorb the flavour.





Then he put wet Manuka (Tea Tree) sawdust in the bottom of the smoker and lit the Methylated Spirits burner underneath.





The rack of fish fillets went into the smoker, with the lid on and the fish smoked for 25 minutes. Eating fish you have caught yourself is delicious!





Everyone caught Rainbow trout during the holiday, but Mum's was definitely the biggest and the best!



In the evening the boys went rabbit shooting at Pukehina. Dad showed Charlie how to line up a rabbit. Charlie was careful and responsible, because guns are dangerous.





They had to keep very quiet and still  
until the rabbits came out to feed.  
Uncle Chris spots a rabbit and Charlie takes aim.





Charlie was very proud that he shot five rabbits.  
He and his cousin Jayden pose with their trophies.  
Rabbits are a pest because they are destroying farm land.





We all went to the Luge at Rotorua  
and had to go up the mountain  
in a cable car called a Gondola.



Jayden, Charlie, Margot, Issy and Teegan  
could see the beautiful view over Lake Rotorua.  
The Gondola hangs on an overhead cable.





Charlie went flying down the Luge track very fast!  
We hardly had time to take a photo!  
It was a long way down, but Charlie was brave.



The tracks wind down the mountain side.  
Charlie loved the hairpin bends and nearly  
zoomed right over the edge racing Jayden!





Then he and Jayden went up on the chair lift,  
again and again, with their  
Luge hooked onto the back.



Charlie went with Jayden to Baypark speedway. It was exciting when the Saloon cars roared past, or crashed and he loved the Monster trucks too!





The Kemp family went with the Hale family to Hobbiton, in Matamata, where Peter Jackson filmed the Hobbit scenes in the famous Lord of The Rings movies.





Charlie knocks on a Hobbit door.  
Hobbit houses are built into the side of the hill.  
Each one is Hobbit - sized to scale.



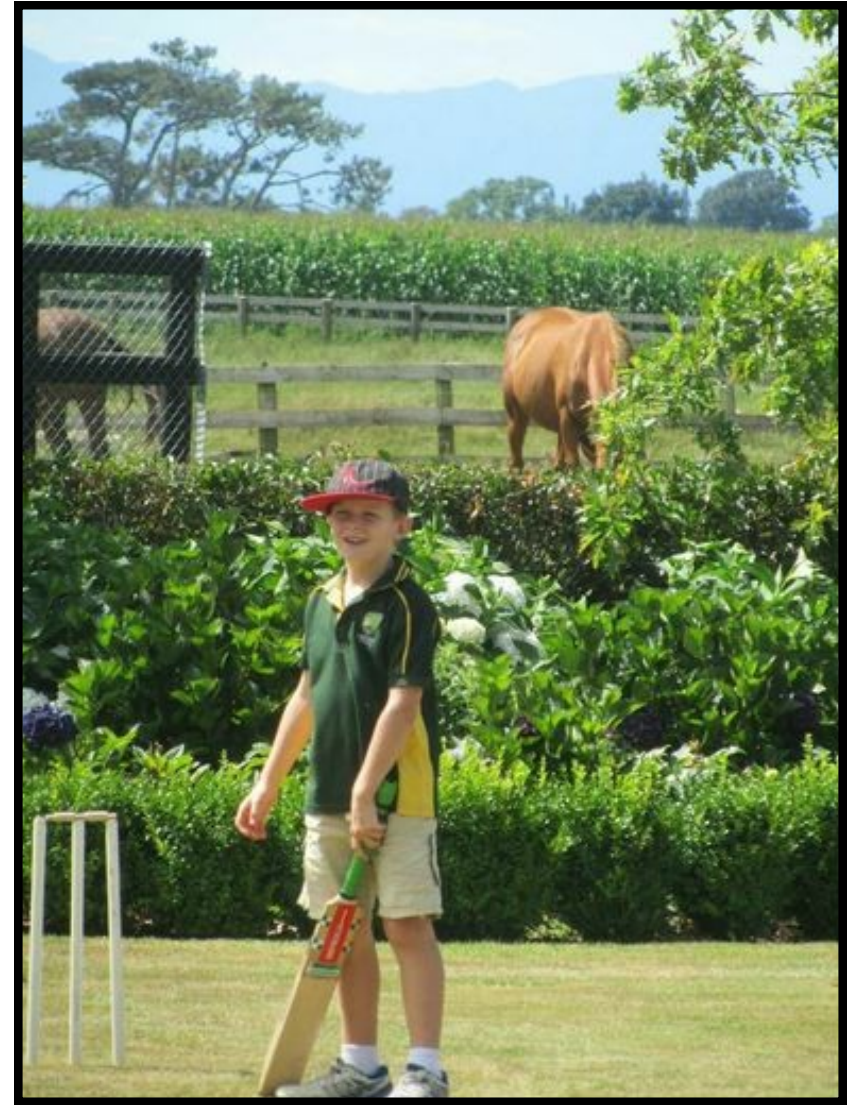


The children enjoyed a free mug of Ginger beer brewed especially for the Dragon's Rest Inn. One end of the Inn is Hobbit sized.



Lulu, Margot, Issy, Charlie and George  
at the Hale's farm in Matamata. It was fun  
to catch up with their old friends from Australia.





Charlie played cricket in the back  
Garden with sheep and horses  
peacefully grazing in the back ground.

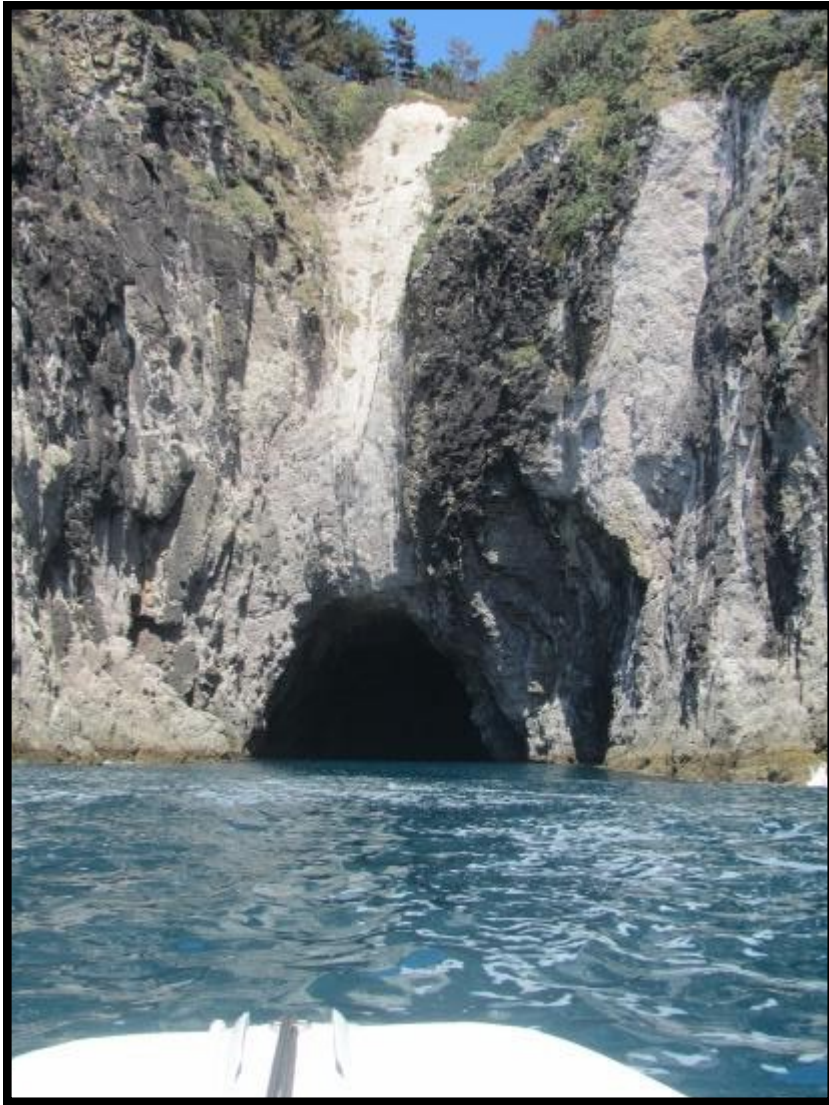


The children had a great time  
roaming free on the farm.  
There are no snakes in New Zealand!





Charlie's family went up the Coromandel Peninsular for a few days, staying at Whitianga. They visited Hot Water Beach and also went by boat to Hahei.



They took a boat trip to visit small islands with caves. The little rubber boat could go right inside the caves. It was pretty amazing!





Charlie loves climbing and jumping off rocks!  
There are no crocodiles, or poisonous fish,  
in New Zealand!



Dad had always dreamed of giving Charlie a real Kiwi holiday; fishing, hunting, camping and boating, just like he had experienced as a boy. Awesome Charlie!