

**Who:** Jake  
**From:** Auckland  
**When:** 2002



**Who:** Helen  
**From:** Auckland  
**When:** 2002

I'm Jake and I am 9yrs old. I was three when I moved to Nelson from Auckland. My Dad used to live here in Motueka where his family grew tobacco. His parents moved to Napier and then back down here.

Since Auckland is a bigger city, I don't think it's a very good place to raise a child because you have no idea what's going to happen out there. Auckland does have a greater crime level than Nelson.

At home there is a very big portrait over our table of me on our favourite playground when I was in Auckland. Most of my grandparents live up there and it's quite a great place to have a holiday.

I'm Helen, Jake's mum. We moved to Nelson from Auckland. Every time I go to Auckland I can't wait to get back to Nelson. I still have family in Auckland - my mother and father are still there

My husband got a job in Nelson within the fishing industry. We knew that we would have to leave Auckland at some stage because the industry in Auckland was contracting severely, and still is. We were lucky enough that he was offered a job here and we moved more than happily.

I'd never seen Nelson. We arrived on the plane with three children - one baby and two pre-schoolers. It was a leap of faith. I was shell-shocked. We'd bought a house in Auckland and we hadn't even unpacked! But here we are and love it. No regrets at all.

Added to the job here, was the lifestyle choice. I didn't really want to bring our children up in Auckland. The Auckland I grew up in doesn't exist any more. There is not a lot of community left. Nelson has that lovely sense of community about it. I can walk down the street and I'll say hello to half a dozen people. I'll know who they are and their family and how they fit into our community; whether they're involved in school or kindergarten or if they work in the local shop.

My husband travels internationally a lot and every now and then he'll come home and say, "What do you think about Argentina?" or "How does Spain sound?" and I'll say to him, "That's fine! You can commute! I'm staying here."

