

# INTERVIEW

Kahurangi Taylor (17) was crowned Miss Teen New Zealand last year, then went on to take the title of Miss World New Zealand at the age of 16. She will represent New Zealand in Miss World in the Ukraine in October. Kahurangi grew up in Franklin, attending the Maori immersion unit at Pukekohe North Primary School, going on to Te Kura Kaupapa Maori Waiuku before attending Auckland Girls Grammar, where she juggles her studies with appearances as Miss World NZ. She plans to attend Waikato University next year to study psychology.

Your life has changed coming from a rural district in NZ to be an international celebrity. Has this changed or enhanced your view of where you come from?

Yes. Travelling overseas especially has made me a lot more grateful of home and has made me much more appreciative of my culture.

Have you met any international celebrities and what were they like?

The majority of the celebrities I've met are Kiwis such as Susan Paul, Ben Lummus, Frankie Stevens - however I have been fortunate enough to meet Miss World 2008, Zi Lin Zhang who is a very lovely girl.

What was it like at the modeling pageant in China and what did you learn?

My time in China was very energy draining because the pageant organizers ran a very tight schedule. We were always either travelling, rehearsing or doing a show, but it was a good experience.

You are fundraising for Starship Children's Hospital. What are you called on to do, and how does helping make you feel?

I did help raise funds for Starship and I also helped raise funds for the "Look Good, Feel Better" charity and the Variety children's charity. It is very rewarding knowing that I am able to use my title to raise funds or spread awareness for charities.

You are the first Miss World NZ to speak Maori. Do you think your bi-cultural background helps you in the world of beauty pageants?

My bi-cultured background has definitely helped me in the world of beauty pageants. I think it is important for all country delegates to have a broad understanding of their country and I feel that my bi-cultural background has helped achieve this.

Do you have some beauty, diet and fitness tips to share with our readers?

Wash your face and brush your teeth! I don't personally have any beauty or fitness secrets I just try my best to eat healthy and exercise when I can.

What offers have come in since being crowned Miss World NZ?

I have had quite a lot of interest from different television shows



wishing to interview me, I have had the opportunity to help with charity events, and I have also been able to be a spokesperson and promote health in schools.

What is the NZ Asia Pacific Trust?

They are the franchise holders of many international pageants such as Miss World. Their motto is "Bringing Greater Understanding Through Cultural Interchange".

How competitive are the other contestants in a pageant, behind the scenes, and what is it like working with so many beautiful women?

A lot of the girls are quite competitive but in my experience it has never led to any unkind conduct.

The best things and the hardest things about your position?

The best thing would be making my family and friends proud and being a positive role model for them. The hardest thing would be catching up at school with the amount of time I take off with my responsibilities.

What do you enjoy doing in your 'down time'?

I like to be a couch potato in front of the television once in a while, especially in winter.

What advice would you give to other girls dreaming of the opportunities offered by beauty pageants?

Keep your head up high and don't let anyone put you down.