

Exchange Student Rebecca Gilroy

I was an exchange student to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada in 1995. Hosted by the Saskatoon Nutana club. I had a wonderful year, hosted by 4 families in total. I made some incredible friendships, and have been back many times.



Since returning to NZ, I first worked in road safety in Christchurch then Wellington, then, after deciding I wanted to "be a paramedic when I grew up", I moved into an administration role, eventually becoming a PA, so I could volunteer in the ambulance world whilst I did some training. I did get a job with Wellington Free Ambulance in 2006 after 5 years volunteering and a few NZQA qualifications. Now, there are degree qualifications offered through AUT and Whitireia Polytech.

I met Steve, my now husband in 2000, and we lived in Regina, Saskatchewan in 2004 for a year so we could hang with my best friend Jess Waiser. I met her and her fabulous family through Rotary. She got married the year we lived there, so I was her Chief Foreign Bridesmaid...!

It was after returning that I worked in admin for one further year that I then got my job in the ambulance service.

We did the whole buy a house thing in 2007, got married in 2009, and then had our son Guy in 2014. He's just turned 4 this past weekend in August.

I'm an Intensive Care Paramedic (ICP), or what you might know as an Advanced Life Support Paramedic, working full time on the road. I got the degree in 2011, kind of backwards, as I got the post graduate qualification for the ICP the year before. As I didn't already have a degree, I was granted recognition of prior learning for the bulk of the degree, however I still had 6 papers to do. In order to do the post grad, I had to do 4 of the under grad papers at the same time as the post grad, so it was a busy 18 months.

I love my job, the challenges it brings, and the fabulous people I get to meet and look after. I'm still living in Wellington - Upper Hutt to be exact. We have a house that is really central, and we love that we can walk everywhere. Guy is a handful, but a loving and caring wee handful.

Rebecca

**Roger Turner has been following up on these students. This is the third of a series
He is keen to talk with potential host families for an exchange student next year**