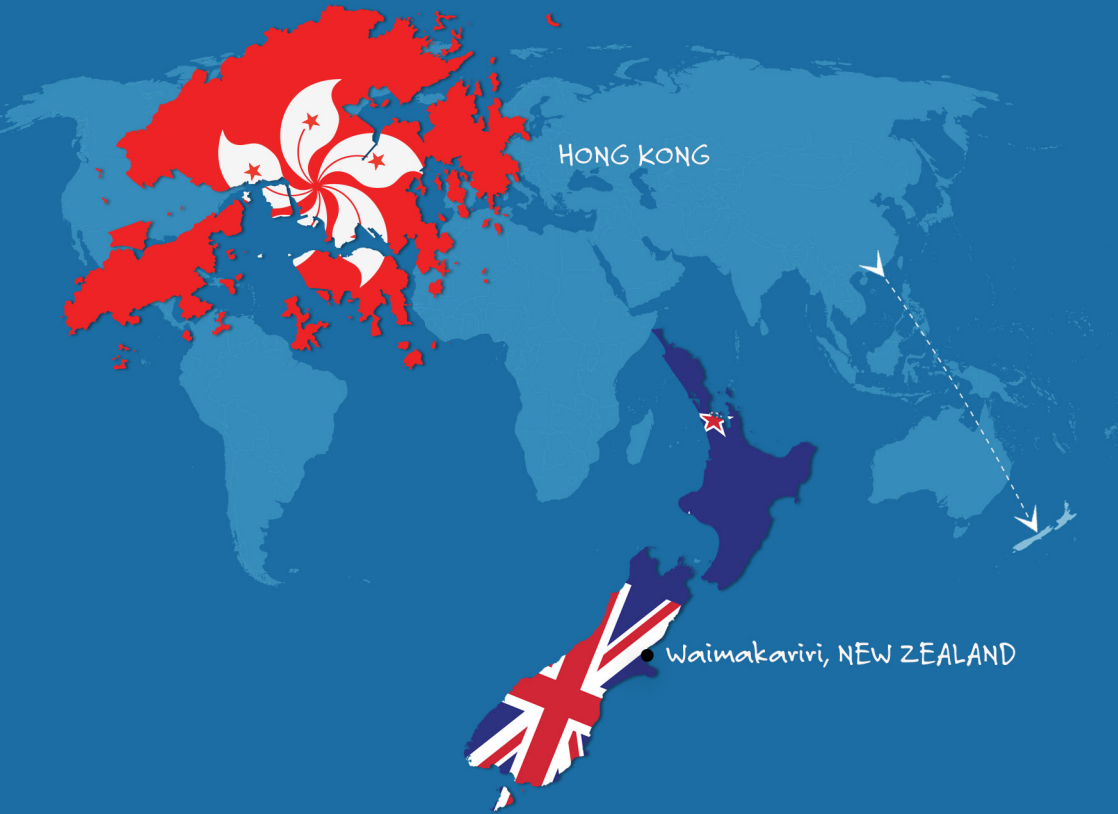


PACKING for a new life



**Migrants & Newcomers
Group**

Migrant Suitcase Agnes Mullis

Hong Kong to New Zealand,
year 2003

The Story

This suitcase story: I came to New Zealand in January 2003. For my first two years I was studying as an international student in Dunedin. I was flatting with my cousin who arrived in NZ a few years before me and had a very good time. I enjoyed student life after many years of work in Hong Kong and then I found a job in the tourism industry. At my workplace, I worked and lived with different people from different countries. We laughed together and respected each other and I really enjoyed my work and the work atmosphere. There I met my husband at work who is a Kiwi and after that we moved to Christchurch. I was holding a working visa and I was not allowed to stay in NZ without working. To make it easy, I went back to studying for a year on a travel and tourism course.



Afterwards, we settled down in Oxford on a lifestyle block. That was an amazing experience for a 100% city girl from Hong Kong. I created many funny stories there like crashing into cows, and the first time to cut firewood. Also I didn't know lambs got their tails cut off after they were born. After my first time lawn mowing I was sick for half the day. I also tried to help my husband weed the garden when he was away, after all my preparing a sunhat, sun block, gloves, gumboots I then found I had no idea what was a plant and what was a weed.



Now I am a mother of three. I miss Hong Kong and my family and friends so much. But I know New Zealand is a place that I can bring up my children and let them have a better education and future. I will keep going on my journey with my kids in New Zealand. Although my family, especially my Grandma is always asking me things and worrying about how I can look after three kids on my own. My answer is “Don’t worry I will be fine, I will find a way.”

Church Corner is in Upper Riccarton area and is a place that I go to stock up on my Asian groceries and of course have my Yum Cha. My husband and kids love it too. Unfortunately there are no Hong Kong style restaurants in Christchurch, I would need to go to Auckland or Wellington.

The items in my suitcase are my collections from the year I came to NZ until now. Some of them were posted from my family and friends during those years.

Country and its history

Hong Kong, 香港, Fragrant Harbour in Cantonese is situated on the southeast coast of China. Hong Kong's strategic location on the Pearl River Delta and South China Sea has made it one of the world's most thriving and cosmopolitan cities. With over 7.4 million people of various nationalities in a 1,104 km², it is the world's fourth most densely populated region.

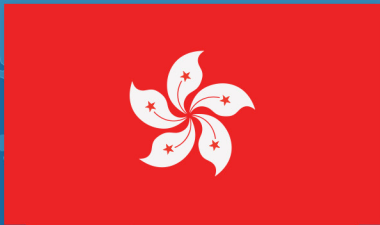
New Zealand is about 243 times bigger than Hong Kong. Christchurch is 1426 km², similar size as Hong Kong.

Hong Kong as we know it today was born when China's Qing dynasty





government was defeated in the First Opium War in 1842, Hong Kong Island was formally ceded to the United Kingdom. The colony was expanded in 1898, when Britain obtained a 99 years lease of the New Territories. Hong Kong was transferred to China on 1st July 1997.



The flag of SAR of Hong Kong is a feature white, stylised, five-petal Hong Kong orchid tree flower in the centre of a red field in accordance of People's Republic of China's flag. The colours red and white symbolise the political principle applied to the region: "1 country 2 systems." This design was adopted on 4 April 1990.

China

Hong Kong



Languages

Since 1997, the bi-literate and trilingual policy has been adopted by the Hong Kong government. This language policy aims to ensure that Hong Kong students become bi-literate (written English and Chinese) and trilingual (spoken English, Cantonese and Mandarin.) Cantonese is the main language spoken in 89% of the population at home daily. English from Hong Kong's establishment as a colonial port, with all official signs and announcements being in both Cantonese and English. Mandarin, since the 1997 Handover, the huge increase in inbound tourism from the mainland has led to much more widespread use of Mandarin, particularly in tourism-related commerce and in districts close to the border.



Food

Due to Hong Kong's past as a British colony and a long history of being an international port of commerce. Hong Kong cuisine is mainly influenced by Cantonese cuisine and European cuisines. Yum Cha , is a common dining-out tradition with family and friends getting together. Dim Sum is small snacks cooked in bamboo steamers. The classic Dim Sum are steamed shrimp dumpling, siu mai, BBQ pork bun, spring roll etc...

Hong Kong Style Restaurant Cha Chaan Teng 茶餐廳, become an international attraction. Cha Chaan Teng is a unique fast food restaurant in Hong Kong and is a popular local dining place all around in Hong Kong. The business hours are usually from 6am to 1am, and in busy areas it is more likely to be open 24 hours. They offer a variety of preset meals, fast food, bakery, and Chinese and western style meals in a very efficient timing. To experience the authentic Hong Kong life, you must go to try.



This Suitcase exhibit is prepared by Agnes Mullis



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