

## What Makes West Auckland Great – By Umi van Dalen from Avondale College

It is the diversity and harmony of our side of Auckland that makes the West truly “the best”.

We benefit from having the perfect balance of urban and rural in West Auckland. It’s only a 10-20min drive from central West Auckland to rural Kumeu, to picking strawberries in Summer and persimmons in Winter. Our proximity to such places allows us to easily escape from our busy lives and grey buildings. At the same time, we live in a modernized region with large shopping malls (WestCity, NorthWest, and Lynnmall), and with 20min train rides, the city remains within our convenient reach. Everything is at our fingertips.

But it’s not only the convenient location that makes West Auckland unique, but especially our harmony with nature. We have a diverse number of natural treasures: the Waitakere ranges, West Coast beaches e.g. Piha or Bethells, the gannet colonies at Muriwai, the Whau River, Te Wai-O-Pareira –and all within only 50km. Moreover, with these places come the endless activities one can do from horse riding to hiking to watching the sunset; there are a multitude of ways in which we can appreciate and be one with nature as humans were inherently made for.

On top of all this, we have such a diverse range of lifestyles and cultures, which reflects the inclusivity of our area. We’ve found the perfect harmony of different living environments to coexist without compromise: West Auckland is a place of growing businesses, where professional couples preoccupy themselves with work. Still, to many families of all cultures, it’s a warm, and welcoming home – a perfect child-friendly setting to raise kids, and equally one in which to quietly retire. The focus of West Auckland is to provide for every group of individuals from all stages of life, a difficult feat, but one which we nonetheless accomplish.

Thus, among an endless number of other reasons, West Auckland represents a veritably diversified geographical area in Auckland.