



I moved out of the boarding house this week. My job decorating for the holidays isn't keeping me very busy yet. I don't want to sit around while I wait for the season to really start.

I spent a few days in Mangere, a suburb in south Auckland. The Bay borders Mangere on the west side. The area is more rural and has farmland along the water. Farmers grow strawberries and board horses and cattle.

There is a park full of cattle on the peak of yet another dormant volcano. The cattle roam free through the park which has a fence built around it. On the climb up to the top, hikers have to watch out for scattered cow pies. Though signs ask visitors not to bother the livestock, it wouldn't be hard to interact with the cattle.

It is definitely worth the climb to the top. From the peak, I could see the One Tree Hill Monument standing on top of its own peak in the distance. And beyond that, I could see Sky Tower through the clouds and the fog.

I hadn't seen a mosquito once while I was in Auckland. Mangere was full of them. I guess being so close to the water is all it takes. It is impossible to go for a walk without hearing buzzing in your ears. Leaving the windows open at night is a bad idea.

Mangere is another beautiful Auckland suburb. In many ways, though, it is just more of the same. Today I am on a flight to Sydney Australia. It is time for a change of scenery and some new things to see.