**Dictation for January:**

What do you know about New Zealand in January? January is the second month of our summer. It's hot at times and you can get sunburnt. It also still rains but there are usually long fine periods between showers. Occasionally there are tropical cyclones.

Some workers with families go on holiday now because students go back to school late in the month. The camp grounds are full of tourists and the beaches become crowded, especially at the weekend. New Zealanders love gardening and the lawnmowers are noisy too. See the January photo quiz for useful vocabulary.

Auckland's Anniversary Weekend is the last weekend of the month and the sailing regatta to celebrate it is in the Waitemata Harbour on the Monday - February 1st this year.

**Dictation for December:**

December is the ‘silly season’ in New Zealand. It is the start of Christmas shopping and preparation, the end of exams, the start of the holidays for most students and the end of the year. There are lots of work parties and the festive season lasts until after the January New Year Holiday break. The longest day is on the 22nd , Christmas Eve is on the 24th, Christmas Day is on the 25th, Boxing Day is on the 26th and of course there is the New Year’s Eve party on the 31st. Most Kiwis sleep in after the party the next day or stay up all night to see the sunrise.