

ROSE OF TRALEE

CANTERBURY REGIONAL WINNER 2012

To say that I was excited to represent Canterbury in the New Zealand National Rose of Tralee National Finals would be an absolute understatement. I had been given this wonderful opportunity to represent both my region and my culture and it was one of the greatest opportunities of my life.

Preparation was the most exciting- getting all of the dresses and outfits ready for the weekend, asking all my friends vote for me on the online polling, and having the support of family and friends back home so proud of my achievement.

I arrived at the hotel on Friday morning, met all of the other Roses and from that point on was treated to absolutely everything, we all felt so special. We shared our stories of our heritage and our regional finals and all became friendly very quickly. We were taken on tours all around Wellington, photographed at all of these beautiful different places and treated like royalty.

We had a wonderful night on our first night, going out to Lower Hutt to an intimate evening there with the judges and some of our supporters. This is where we were interviewed and got to perform our 'party pieces'. It was so relaxed and easy going you could but not enjoy it. Returning back to our hotel later on that night we were exhausted from our fun filled day.

The following day we had our one on one interviews with the judges, had our lunch, got our hair and make up done and had a great day being treated to the best by the Rose Committee. Then it was time for the ball, which was the hi-light of the whole weekend, the room filled with supporters, well wishers and people who all had a claim to Ireland in one way or another. The excitement in the room was palpable and reached fever pitch when the beautiful Alana was crowned the New Zealand Rose of Tralee.

For anybody questioning whether to enter or not it is definitely something I would encourage, it was a wonderful experience and another reason to be proud of where you come from and what that means to you. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as the Canterbury Rose of Tralee and wish all the best for the 2013 Rose.

Trisha Mulvey.