

The Finnish Society and pesis NZ are just so thrilled to have Kalle Uroic and his partner Daniela visiting Auckland New Zealand. Both Kalle and Daniela are here in Auckland attending Massey University. Kalle is completing studies in Chemistry and Daniela is working to finish her degree in Biology.

Both Kalle and Daniela are of German heritage. It is with Kalle that pesapallo is especially grateful. The Rein in Reipas which is based in the city of Cologne is the current German pesapallo champions a position they have held for the last six years. Kalle who is connected to Finnish heritage on his mother's side started to play pesapallo when he was a teenager attending a Finnish language school. The students all seemed to get on well and as they played they got better at what they did and the rest is now history. Kalle visits Finland whenever possible with his sister. She visits there just before he came to New Zealand. A big reason for visiting Finland is to see his grandmother and of course to watch as many pesis games as possible.

Kalle's present team the Rein in Reipas has strong connections with the River Rein which is one of the most famous river systems in not only Germany but Europe with many countries having the river flow through it. His team has appeared in such media as Finland's sport TV programme "Urheiluruutu" where Kalle and his team were interviewed when they attended a tournament in Finland.

Back in Germany Kalle said they occasionally get teams coming to play from other countries. One team the Lahden Mailaveikot visited them and played several games. Although the team was a female team similar type teams are at present found in Germany. Mostly they are male or mixed teams.

Kalle and Daniela have been taking part in games of pesapallo here in Auckland and were most surprised to attend to the first game that has ever been played in New Zealand on an officially marked field. The first game they took part in was played on roughly paced out measurements and loose bases all on a long grassed playing field. However when the new field was ready to be played on history was ready to be made. Kalle has helped with local players getting to understand the game and how to play the game at a level that is comparable to other countries.

Kalle and Daniela are in New Zealand for approximately six months which is a very sad thing for pesapallo players here.

On return to Germany Kalle will join his team and will begin preparations for his team entering the World Cup 2006 Tournament which will commence July eight in Munich. Checkout Kalle's team www.reipas.de

and also take the time to go check the website for the World Cup for Pesapallo <http://worldcup2006.pesis.de/>