

# AFS North Shore Newsletter

May, 2010

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*"From Wellsford to the Bridge"*  
<http://www.afsns.org.nz>



**Intercultural  
Programmes**  
*New Zealand*  
Ngā Herenga Tātai o AFS

## **NEXT MEETING – SOMETHING DIFFERENT!**

**Sunday 16 May**

Meet at 8am at Burger King in Constellation Drive

### **ALL HOSTED/SELECTED STUDENTS AND RETURNEES**

Our **normal** chapter meeting this month has been changed!  
To replace this meeting we are planning a day trip to:-

#### **Waitakere Ranges, West Auckland.**

Sunday 16 May

Enjoy a day in the beautiful NZ bush

Join Richard Bowles (returnee Brazil) for a 'back to nature'  
experience

Full information will be emailed to you soon.



Please ensure that you keep this day free.

**Email NOW to register your interest, to get further details and help us assess transport requirements.**

Richard - [rf.bowles@gmail.com](mailto:rf.bowles@gmail.com) or 021 201 2815

Winston - [president@afsns.org](mailto:president@afsns.org) or 027 222 3296

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anzac Day is not only a day to remember those that fought to preserve our culture and way of life, but also a time that we reflect on the foundation of AFS.

AFS was formed by the ambulance drivers of World Wars I & II, who firmly believed that personal interaction and friendships could build international peace, and that an understanding of other cultures could help prevent future blood-shed.

I am sure you will agree with me, that this philosophy has been well and truly proven. I have come to know many cultures and understand that we are different in many ways. Our culture and beliefs are not necessarily right or wrong ... just different.

AFS National Conference has been and gone for another year and was once again a good chance for a few of us to withdraw from the day to day issues, and focus on the bigger picture and the longer term goals. "Challenging times" lie ahead, but with a great team success is assured.

Winston

[president@afsns.org.nz](mailto:president@afsns.org.nz)

### CALENDAR DATES

**16 May** AFS meeting – Waitakeres bush walk  
**7 June** Queen's birthday observed  
**13 June** AFS meeting  
**20 June** AFS fundraising BBQ

### WHAT'S ON

**17 May** Movie at Bridgeway (details below)  
**21 – 23 May** End of stay camp  
**4 July** American Independence Day

Hi it's Hannah here. I am a 17 year old student at St Mary's college. In September this year I am going to France on a year long AFS exchange. I am frantically trying to save money and get my NCEA level three finished before I go. As part of my fundraising and with the help of the great people in the East Auckland Chapter of AFS, I am organizing a movie fundraising night at the Bridgeway Cinema in Northcote on **Monday the 17 th May at 7.30pm. Tickets \$20 each**

**The movie is A Single Man starring Colin Firth** (suitable for mature audiences)

This is where I would love your help, as I need to try to sell 187 tickets!

It would be great if you would come, to buy tickets you can give my mum a ring on **(09) 834 8945** or flick an email to [shirley@benesail.co.nz](mailto:shirley@benesail.co.nz)

Plus we will have great spot prizes on the night.

**Look forward to seeing you there and thanks for your support !**

**Hannah : )**

Here's some info on the movie:

*It's November 30, 1962. Native Brit George Falconer, an English professor at a Los Angeles area college, is finding it difficult to cope with life. Jim, his personal partner of sixteen years, died in a car accident eight months earlier when he was visiting with family. Jim's family were not going to tell George of the death or accident let alone allow him to attend the funeral. This day, George has decided to get his affairs in order before he will commit suicide that evening. As he routinely and fastidiously prepares for the suicide and post suicide, George reminisces about his life with Jim. But George spends this day with various people, who see a man sadder than usual and who affect his own thoughts about what he is going to do.*

## Attention all hosted students!!!

### 21 – 23 May – End of Stay Camp –

- Compulsory for students departing in July
- Optional for mid-stayers – a date you won't want to miss!  
(more information will be emailed to you soon)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT** - By now you should have completed some "Service to AFS", "Service to your community", "Involvement in your community" and "Involvement in your school"

Please bring your 'Record of Community Involvement' booklet to the next meeting.

## HOSTING

**THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ARE ARRIVING IN JULY FOR TWO MONTHS ONLY AND OUR CHAPTER MUST FIND HOMES FOR THEM AS THEY CANNOT BE DELAYED. PLEASE CAN YOU HELP??**



### **Miriam - Spain (Madrid), 17 years old**

Miriam is a very sociable person and enjoys spending her free time with her friends and family. She likes music and goes to concerts of her favourite bands and also plays in a group herself. At school Miriam is very busy as she gives English and music lessons to her fellow pupils. She spent some time in the UK during the last two years and is now looking forward to coming to New Zealand.



### **Benjamin - France (Saint Martin de Crau), 15 years old**

Benjamin likes playing sport. He practices badminton, basketball and football at school. In the summer he enjoys climbing and sailing and in the winter, skiing. He describes himself as patient and helpful.



### **Elena - Italy (Acquaviva Delle Fonti), 15 years old**

Elena comes from a small town and her main passion is dance and classical ballet - she attends lessons almost every day. Her favourite subject at school is History, as she enjoys understanding how the greatest minds in history work.



### **Darren - Malaysia (Pulau Pinang), 15 years old**

Darren is a hard-working and reliable person. He has a great relationship with his family and enjoys spending time with them. In school Darren is especially interested in science and history where he performs very well. Darren is willing to adapt to foreign traditions and habits and would like to share his Malaysian culture with you too.

**PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER OR SU: [hosting@afsns.org.nz](mailto:hosting@afsns.org.nz) IF INTERESTED IN HOSTING ONE OF THESE STUDENTS OR INQUIRING ABOUT ANY OTHERS.**

As well as our 5 Intensive Program (2 month) students needing families, we also need homes for an additional 5 students who are coming for one year. Would you like to host one of the following French speakers?



**Elliott – France (Toulon), 16 years old**

Elliott's family has hosted many students in the past and it was the great experience he had with his New Zealand host-brother that inspired Elliott to participate in an exchange. He is very sporty and spends at least 11 hours a week practicing various sports including; capoeira, trampoline and roller hockey. Eliot makes friends easily and enjoys just talking or playing sports with his mates.



**Anne-Gaelle – France (Begles), 16 years old**

Anne-Gaelle works hard in school; her favourite subjects are economics, social sciences and English. For fun she listens to music, goes climbing or to the cinema with her friends. In her holidays she enjoys taking part in camps with her local scout group or going to the beach with her family. Anne-Gaelle is looking forward to meeting new people and learning new traditions on her exchange.



**Raphaelle – Belgium (French speaking), 18 years old**

Raphaelle is the eldest of four sisters and enjoys her role as 'big sis' and is very helpful around the home. She has been practicing classical ballet since she was six years old and enjoys the 'rigour and precision' of the sport. Raphaelle has also been involved with the Scouts for most of her life and is now a leader for boys aged 8 to 12. She also volunteers with the homeless and plans to study law and be involved with making the world a fairer place.



**Anouk – Canada (French speaking), 17 years old**

Anouk is a busy, sociable and sporty person who says that she is always laughing and joking. She is on the sports committee at school and likes organizing sporting events. She plays soccer, skis and rides horses. She also plays the violin and spends time at music camps during the holidays. Anouk is great with people and therefore plans to study hotel business in the future.

The winner of the Gallipoli Award in Turkey spoke at our last meeting. Aytuna is spending 4 weeks with the Francis family, whose daughter Devon won the NZ Award, and is spending 4 weeks with Aytuna's family in Turkey.

Hi, my name is Aytuna, I am from Canakkale. I attend Canakkale Milli Piyango Anadolu Lisesi.

To win the scholarship to come here, I wrote a composition about my Great Great Grandfather who fought in the Dardanelles during the First World War, and his daughter. My Great Great Grandfather could have come home after the war, but he had serious wounds and he died several days later. But before his death, he made a wooden chest for his three year old daughter. This chest is now shown in a museum which was founded by an important Turkish writer called Sunay Akin.

The aim of my coming here is absolute friendship, because I wanted to be the symbol of peace and build a bridge of friendship between our two beautiful countries. What is more, I have learned a new culture, and in return Devon has had the chance to learn about mine. I have also gained a lot of experience about family life, new friendships and a new school. There is a huge difference between Turkey and New Zealand in so many ways, like the people, their lifestyles, houses, traffic, schools, lessons, uniforms etc. Each of them became a new thing that I gained for myself and my future.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to AFS for this life-changing opportunity, and to my host family for all they have done for me. It is wonderful to meet these perfect people and live in this perfect country.

## *The Cultural Detective*

### **The Cultural Detective Workshop**

**An Invitation to all AFS Volunteers to take part in this invaluable intercultural workshop.**

**North Shore Chapter**

**Monday 31 May 2010 – 6.30pm  
Venue to be advised**

The Cultural Detective is a dynamic series of tools that develop invaluable intercultural competence in individuals.

Learning gives immediate application and results.

Build your skills and better understand the similarities and differences of cultures and strengthen relationships.

It is a highly flexible values based approach which enhances cross-cultural effectiveness; particularly suited for the AFS programme.

It is simple and practical.

We encourage all volunteers to attend. If this date does not suit, 2 sessions will be held in Auckland on Sunday 30 May.

For further information or to book please contact your Auckland Cultural Detective Facilitator:-

Pamela Cullen

[r.cullen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:r.cullen@xtra.co.nz)

Phone 09 488 0509

Mob 021 235 0814

## *Selection*

Thank you to all those who helped out at our last Selection Round. If you know of any of your family or friends who would like to go on an AFS exchange, remind them that the applications deadline for the next selection day is **May 28**. Selection Day for the next round is **26 June** at the Glenfield Presbyterian Church.

## *Fun Golf Tournament*

The golf tournament held at the Vincent Course at Dairy Flat on Sunday 25 April was a memorable event, despite most of the hosted students being very tired after a late night and a **very** early start that morning to attend the Anzac day Dawn Service.

It was a glorious day – the sun shone, the course proved an interesting challenge, and some ingenious solutions to the challenge of getting the ball into the hole were found.



*Right: Team members managing to keep their eyes open between shots.*



So 9 teams played rather a lot of golf, judging by the scores.

After the victorious team were presented with their trophy, everyone enjoyed a delicious Kiwi barbecue meal.

Very many thanks to our hosts, Su & Rocky Vincent, for providing the setting for a fabulous afternoon.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOSTED STUDENT:

Jeanette from Norway on 17 May.



## HOSTED STUDENTS' NEWS

Hi everyone! I am **Charlotte from Belgium** and I have been in New Zealand for 9 months now! I didn't expect to have such a great time before I came here. Like some people, I was scared to leave all my family and friends behind me to go to an unknown country. I was thinking my English was pretty good, but when I first arrived, I couldn't understand anyone. People were speaking so fast with an unfamiliar accent. The first days were quite hard, especially after a 2-days flight and 12 hours jet lag, but my host family (Forlongs family) was there for me, repeating the sentences all the time. I suppose they were thinking I was strange because I was sleeping all the time! But I tried to do my best, helping as much as I could, to cook some Belgian dishes and to try to keep my room tidy! (which is really hard for a missy person like me).

I was really lucky to be in a host family with heaps of kids! Jeremy, 21, Matthew, 18, Caleb, 17 and Taka (from Japan), 17. Only boys! I was kind of scared when I received the paper for my host family and I saw that I would have 4 host brothers. But I have had the best time ever with them! Thank you for taking care of me as your sister.

My host dad Bruce showed me New Zealand from another angle: from the sky! I could see the beautiful sceneries from his plane, and I have had the chance to go down Taupo in it. My host mum Marian was a great mother; she took care of me when I was sick at the hospital like my real mum would have done. I have only one word when I think of them: thanks! Thank you to open your door to me, and let me be part of your family. My first 6 months were great in your family.

Taka from Japan was hosting in the same time as me, I was really lucky to have another AFS student with me. I felt like it was easier as we were living the same thing. We have had heaps of talks; we shared so many exciting, funny, and also sad things. I was really happy to do the South Island trip with him, since that time he became my real little brother.

I changed host family since the end of holidays; I am now with the same host family (Taylors Family) as my sister when she was here, 2 years ago. It was a bit weird at beginning to be in the exactly same place as her. I have now 3 host sisters and 2 host brothers! A really big and noisy family compare to my one in Belgium (only 1 sister). But I wasn't scared to change because I knew how much nice they are! So far I have had a great time here, I really enjoy my new school (where I played in the volley ball team for the first term). With this change I met new people, I discovered new places and I enjoyed new things!

I can't believe I just have 2 months left before I will go back to the real world. I will never forget this amazing year and all the wonderful people I met.

Thank you so much to my host families, thank you for hosting me, thank you for showing me so much about this great country. And of course, thank you AFS!

Charlotte

Hoi zaeme! Hello!

My name is **Elaia and I'm from Switzerland**. I came to New Zealand last winter in July. I have to say I was really surprised when I arrived in Auckland. I've been told that it gets really, really cold here in winter and that I should bring lots of warm clothes. But compared to Switzerland it wasn't cold at all. It was like autumn for me. And after that warm winter I had the longest, hottest and muggiest summer in my life which I quite enjoyed.

There are a few other thing which were different from my life at home. During the first two months here in New Zealand I was going to an all girls school. We hardly have any girls schools at home and I've never thought about going to one, so it was really weird on my first day when I came to this huge school and I could only see girls.

Because I was only for two months at Westlake Girls High School and afterwards for even a shorter time at Long Bay College, I didn't have to study much for school last year. That was great. At home I'm always stressed because I have to do a lot for school. It was nice not to worry too much about school for a few months and to have the time to get to know the Kiwis, their way of life and their country and also international students from all over the world. The school changed a bit for me this year. I have to write all the assessments and tests and I also have to study because we are going to have practise Exams in two weeks. I wasn't able to write any Exams last year and we don't have Exams at home, so it's going to be the first time that I have to write them. It's going to be interesting...

I always enjoyed to tell the people here in New Zealand that I am from Switzerland but that I go to school in Germany which means that I cross the border every day at least twice.

Everybody would just look at me and ask how that works. I then would tell them that Germany is is just ten minutes away from my house, Austria just forty minutes, Frances about two hours, Italy.... That always impressed them. It it is the first time for me that I've been in only one country for such a long time.

I didn't know if I would be able to travel a lot because AFS always writes that it isn't a travel program. But now after ten months here in New Zealand I have seen quite a lot of the country.

My sister and her boyfriend came to New Zealand last year for two months. They rented a small campervan and visited a lot of places in the South and the North Island. I joined them during my two weeks holidays in September. We were driving from Wellington up to Opononi. It was the first time that I was outside of Auckland and I had a great time even though it was raining quite a lot which meant that weren't able to do much.

In the summerholidays I went to my hostfamilie's bach up north. It is about forty minutes away from Kaitaia. It was great to see the most northern part from New Zealand which is quite different from Auckland.

Then in the last holidays I went to the South Island with about forty other AFS students. It was so much fun! The people were nice, we did a lot of stuff and we had good weather. The two things I enjoyed the most were Milford Sound where we were staying on a boat and I could see dolphins for the first time of my life and the skydiving in Queenstown.

I can't believe I've already been here for more than nine months! I've never been so much aware of the time like here in New Zealand. Last year was all right because I knew that I had still more than half of my stay ahead of me. But now, since the beginning of this year, the time is just flying away. In nine weeks I will be on my flight back home, so I'm just enjoying my last weeks here in New Zealand as much as I can!!

### **Fabian from Germany**

When I first arrived at Auckland Airport I was really overextended in terms of my English - but even I did not speak too much I was told my English would be excellent. So I settled in quite fast.

All in all I never thought it is much different - apart from the school uniform last year, but that doesn't count. Still in the end I noticed there are many very little things that seem unusual, different - for example I burn a toast for testing the fire alarm...

What else is different - the public transport is ... a little late in Auckland. Apart from the fact that you can't miss the bus it's horrible!

But at least after a few months I could start to enjoy the funny of silly way :D and somehow I survived and now it everything I wondered about seems normal - in fact I can't really remember the things I would have done different.

No offence but that's great!

Yours, Fabian

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Hoodie (Black) (Back Design 'www.afs.org.nz')		\$69.00
T-Shirt (Men's) (Black)		\$25.00
T-Shirt (Tight, Black) (Women's)		\$25.00
Backpack		\$30.00
AFS Pen (writes in blue)		\$8.00

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