

AFS North Shore Newsletter

August, 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 –

Sunday 22 August 2010 7.00 pm

SUNNYNOOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

CNR SUNNYNOOK RD & SYCAMORE DR, SUNNYNOOK



SPRING FEAST!



Our next meeting is an end of winter celebration. At this meeting we will share a meal together, welcome recently returned and newly selected students and our new intake of hosted students and their host families. We will also hear from Devon Francis, winner of the NZ Gallipoli Award, who spent 4 weeks in Turkey in April/May this year.

AFS North Shore will provide ham, chicken and rolls for our end of winter feast, and we would like the remaining food to be brought by all families to share please.



If your surname is A-M, please provide a dessert to share.

If your surname is N-Z, please provide a vegetable dish or salad to share (no heating facilities).

Please also bring your own cutlery, plates, glasses, drinks and a bag to take away dirty dishes. And also bring along some spring decorations, tablecloths, etc to jazz up your table as prizes will be awarded!

Please RSVP to Su at hosting@afsns.org.nz



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

..and another month passes us by....

Welcome home to those that have recently completed their journey of a life time.

I have recently changed jobs, and with only half of my life having changed, I have found it particularly challenging and every day have had to adjust and question old habits and views. As with the fundamental principles of AFS, differences are often not right or wrong, just different, and that is an every day event for all of us everywhere. I know some of our students that are away have been facing challenging times over the last few months, but they have all held their heads high and with great courage and admiration taken on the world to succeed.

Thanks to the AFS north Shore team for the continuing great job that you are all doing ... AFS is a volunteer based organisation, and we have the best team in New Zealand by far.

Please come and join us at our next get together, "Spring Feast" where we will have some returnee speeches and meet our latest bunch of hosted students and newly selected students.

Winston

President

SELECTION

Congratulations to the successful applicants of 2010 Round 2:

Holly Gillard – Northcote College

Jacob France – Northcote College

Charlotte Farrimond-Kelly – Northcote College

Ryan Troughton – Long Bay College

Nicole Taylor – Long Bay College

Dallas Delaney – Long Bay College

Jamie Webb-Speight – AGC Parnell

James Churchill – Takapuna Grammar

Stephen Rankin – Westlake Boys

Danielle Drummond – Takapuna Grammar

Sacha Gilmore – Albany Senior

Ashleigh Beavan-Parris - Whangapararua College

*Special congratulations to **Nicole Taylor** who has won a Spanish scholarship under the Language Immersion Awards.*

I'm sure everyone will make these students feel welcome as they start their journey with AFS.

Fundraising for your exchange may seem daunting. Please find below a message our National Office has received from a remarkable and enterprising student getting ready for her AFS experience:

Right from the very start, before I applied for AFS, my parents said they couldn't afford to pay for the trip for me but they would do everything they could to help me fundraise it. My family and I go down to our local farmers market and do a BBQ and sell crafts we have made, every Saturday morning, this is a great way to advertise AFS and get to know some new people. As well as this we have run a number of raffles with the prize

being \$100 in Scratchies or \$100 Supermarket vouchers (150 \$2 tickets so each time we made \$200 profit). Earlier in the year we held a Trivial Pursuit evening, this proved to be a great success and we had people saying how good it was for weeks after.

As Tokoroa has a lot of engineering company's (my dad works at one of them), in the school holidays my mum and I went in to each of them with an order form for a hot lunch. This we brought to them on Wednesday in time for lunch (don't tell the council as they are really strict with permits!).

We also helped a friend organise a lovely garden party (afternoon tea and entertainment) which a lot of fun. Although I am not your typical farm girl, I learnt to milk cows which I did every 3rd or 4th weekend. This was great fun as I enjoy a challenge.

As well as continuing with the smaller fundraising we are organising another Trivial Pursuit evening on the 21st August and have written to a number of large companies asking them to donate items we could give away as prizes and a number of them have been really supportive.

Raising all this money was hard work but well worth it. All the people around me are great because they continue to support me in everything I do, especially my family.

Thank you very much to the panel members and thank you to those parents, returnees and supporters who helped out on Selection Day. It is very much appreciated.

Next Selection Day: 4 September 2010

PARENTS, RETURNEES, AFS SUPPORTERS - CAN YOU SERVE ON A SELECTION PANEL??? Contact Susan on 021 333 197 or selection@afsns.org.nz

HOSTING

Haere mai and welcome to the following students who have recently arrived in New Zealand for 12 months. Welcome to the North Shore. We hope you have a wonderful stay.

<u>Student</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Host Family</u>	<u>School</u>
Can Sefkatli	Turkey	Noeline & Daniel Ashby	Westlake Boys
Christophe Philippot	Spain	Dianne & Nicholas Rump	Northcote College
Gylfi Andresson	Iceland	Mark & Nicole Parris	Whangapararua College
Josefine Larsen	Denmark	Bruce & Marian Forlong	Orewa College
Linda Tallroth	Sweden	Bruce & Marian Forlong	Orewa College
Manon Fleurus	Belgium	Alison & Nicholas Simmons	Northcote College
Sophie Bernard	Canada	Margaret & Wayne Rolls	Rangitoto College
Melanie Schroeter (arrives 27 August)	Switzerland	Susanna Kruger	Rangitoto College
Thibault Grange (arrives 27 August)	France	Paul & Judith Deverall	Northcote College
Jacopo Pradel (arrives 1 September)	Italy	Jill & Stephen Farrimond-Kelly	Northcote College
Luigi Pagani (arrives 1 September)	Italy	Bruce & Marian Forlong	Orewa College

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our schools for accepting our students, and for the positive way in which they carry out their very important role in these young people's exchange experience. However, we give special congratulations to **Northcote College**, which already has one of our students and is taking no less than four of our mid year arrivals.

FAREWELL

At our 22 August meeting we also farewell two North Shore students who are due to leave on their experience of a lifetime on 4 September.

They are: **Gabriella Visini** (Kingsway School) who is going to Italy and **Olivia Rapata** (Westlake Girls) who is off to Portugal.

Have a wonderful time and don't forget to make the most of every minute!



Last month's meeting was a fun night playing laser tag, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The picture shows a group of grinning girls all kitted out and ready to go!

AFS RAFFLE!

1st Prize
2010 Suzuki Swift 1.5 XE
Value: \$18,500
Supplied by Winger Suzuki, Hamilton

2nd Prize
Toshiba Satellite Pro
L500 Laptop
Value: \$840_{ex GST}

3rd Prize
Travel Voucher
Supplied by Orbit Travel
Value: \$500

4th-10th Prizes
\$100 Whitcoulls
gift vouchers

TICKETS \$2

AFS
Intercultural
Programmes
New Zealand
Your future starts here

Draw date: 6th September 2010
Suzuki Swift: New, 2010 September 2010, at Hamilton Police Station.
Prize winners determined by random number generation.
Result published in Sunday Star Times, 20th September, 2010.
and on www.afs.org.nz
In the event of cancellation, this will be published in the Sunday Star
Times on 20th September, 2010, and all money will be refunded.
Organiser: CDF Dept, 59 Gibson Rd, Hamilton

Not previously used for AFS Education Trust work and will be divided among the
donors and for the AFS Trust in the first instance.
Limited to 25,000 tickets, in books of five tickets, numbered from 10,001 to 45,000.
All prize winners will be contacted by phone where possible. Prizes must be claimed
from the organiser by 20th December, 2010. Prizes cannot be converted to cash.
By license issued under Section 17 of the Gambling Act 2003

License No: 072048202
Organiser: AFS Education Trust
PO Box 10091, Wellington, PN 10002-07 007

***Absolutely your last chance to get out there and
sell your tickets – butts and money MUST be
returned at the meeting on 22 August.***

Alternatively mail butts and money (not cash) to:
AFS North Shore,
P.O. Box 331686
Takapuna
North Shore City 0740 *as soon as possible please.*

- Do not unstaple books
- Do not return to the NZ organiser – we must reconcile our own
- If whole books are sold to one person (\$20) –fill in the first butt and cross it with “Whole Book”
- Raffle closes 6 September but we would like butts and monies returned well in advance of this date (actually by end August)
- If you lose a book please let us know immediately – preferably don’t lose any!
- For internet banking, our account is
Account AFS Intercultural Programmes North Shore Chapter
Bank Westpac: **03-0275-0103471-00**
Please include book numbers so David can reconcile!

Please contact David Williams (North Shore Coordinator) on 441-4296, or dcpes@xnet.co.nz

This is our major fundraising venture for the year and we thank all members who have taken tickets and we look forward to your successes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOSTED STUDENTS:

9 August - Hitomi from Japan
13 August - Ana from Paraguay



HOSTED STUDENTS' NEWS

Kia Ora.

Very New Zealand way of starting this, right?

It's **Laila from Norway** here. I have now been here in New Zealand for 5 months, and those months has been amazing; I love it!

They say time flies in good company and when you're having fun. Time has definitely gone by quick. Am having lots of fun and the company is great. I have met lots of interesting and cool people, and I have made great AFS and kiwi friends. Also I have a sweet as host family who are super nice, chilled, keeps me busy, and always makes me laugh. I love living with them, and I know you will be reading this: you guys rock!

In an about 5 month's time I will go back to Norway, and the thought is very scary. Yes, I look forward to see my loved ones back in Norway again, but don't want to leave the people and this country. I want to have the best of both worlds, but I know that's not possible. Its crazy how this is my reality now, and for a year ago it was just a thought. Luckily I have 5 more months here, and lots too look forward to; they are going to Sydney, the South Island trip, my 18th birthday, Christmas and summer. Even though this is not nearly as cold as Norway, I must say I can't wait for the summer to come!

New Zealand is a wonderful country, and I love the kiwis how relaxed and funny they are, the nature, the food, the Haka, the music and even the TV-shows. Shortland Street is now a daily routine, and I really enjoyed Go Girls. I also appreciate all the beautiful beaches you guys have. They are stunning, and I wish I could take them back with me.

Exchange is an amazing life changing experience, and I'm really happy that I chose to do it. It's scary, amazing, difficult, interesting, nerve-racking and fun all at the same time. You learn about another country, and another culture, but you also learn heaps about yourself. This has opened my eyes, and I will definitely do more traveling. The world consists of so many different and amazing places and people, and I'm happy to say that I now have friends over the whole world.

I have done a lot of things while I have been here, and I can't really describe it. But I will mention a few memorable things : went to the Bay of Islands, seen the huge Kauri tree Tane Mahuta, seen the sunset on Bayleys beach, been to a real prom with an after ball, been on a fishing adventure in the Coromandel , and the laser tag on the last chapter meeting was soo fun. I have also settled down to the Kiwi way of life. I now go barefoot in the summer, say thank you to the bus driver, and watch rugby.

I know how lucky I am, and am really grateful for this experience. Will thank AFS, my host family and all my friends. You have made this first half amazing, and I can't wait to see what the 2nd half will bring. Hopefully there will be no red cards.

Cheers Laila

Hello!

I am **Antonella, from Paraguay**. I have been here for five months, and I can say that those months have been the best ones in my life, and I still have five more months to enjoy! However, that is quite sad as well because...O.M.G., time flies!!

Even though I came later than when I should, I have done a lot of things I had never done before and that I have enjoyed so much. But of course, I had to get used to many things such as the cold (I am from South

America!), the buses, the lunch and the most 'important' thing: the rain. It is/was not too bad though 😊

Well...about my experience here...wow, it is really difficult to write about that because some pages are not enough and the only way to know exactly how it has been so far is to live it!

I have been in the smelly Rotorua with my host family where I had a wonderful time: We visited a Maori Village where I also could see geyser, we went to Rainbow Springs, to the Luge for the second time, but this time I did not crash and my sister was saved from death; I did zorbing that was so cool, and skyswing..uff..! I almost lost my voice screaming (but my little sister looks more scared than me in the video, which is good 😊).

I also have been in Bay of Islands where I went with my mum and sister. There I could learn more about New Zealand's history and even though we went for just two days I had a great time.

And in another opportunity I could see my first kiwi which was exciting 😊

I became famous as well. As you might know, Paraguay played against NZ during the World Cup time, so the TV came to my house and filmed me and two other Paraguayan friends watching the whole game. So, we were on TV 😊, where we also were interviewed as I was for the newspaper (Harbour News) few days after that. It was embarrassing but awesome at the same time... How would you feel when the next days at school everybody says to you they saw you on TV? Great, ae?

And speaking of school... Although the school here is really different from the school in Paraguay, that was one of the easiest things to get used to. Now I can sleep till 7 o'clock instead of 5.30am and I am free since 3.15pm that means 'no homeworks' instead of 4.30pm that did not really mean the same. I just take 6 subjects instead of 15 and they are really easy and more practical so I do not need to be writing the whole day.

I am also in the surf club of the school, something I had never done before and that I really like, even though is winter!

As I said before I could keep writing but I will never finish...this is just a little bit of my experience here so far, is actually almost anything!

I am so happy for living this awesome experience and for being able to enjoy it with my amazing host family and with the heaps of friends I have made here, who I will always remember as something really important of my kiwi exchange, and who hopefully I will be able to see again after going home.

Cheers.

MAIL IN-BOX

John Allis (*Bolivia*) 17 July 2010

After a 2 week visit from my parents I'm finally back home to relax... at least until tomorrow morning when I'll be changing host families, which means an arriving party and meeting hundreds of new people whose names I will never be able to remember. After nearly 6 months with my current family I have just recently begun to get know them well, with my Spanish better, so it's a little bit sad to be changing, but I'm assured that their house will always be my house, and I'm welcome to visit whenever I like, and attend any sort of family reunion bbq there might be. Having said that, I have met my new host mother who is very nice, and have been informed that my brother is a lot of fun (I think his actual words were, a real handful for his mother, always getting into trouble).

So much has happened since I last wrote, that there's no way I can remember what, let alone put it in chronological order but I'll do my best.

Making good progress with my Spanish. Still don't know how to say some stuff but can always find a creative way around it, and it is now coming much more naturally to me, without having to think about what I'm saying.

Just last week I went on a day trip from La Paz to Lago Titicaca, and la Isla del Sol, which the Incas believe is the birth place of the sun. That was pretty amazing, even if it did mean travelling for 4 hours each way to get there. We also saw an amazing wildlife park, where they take animals who have been mistreated by their owners and look after them there, it was good fun having a monkey crawl all over me trying to steal my wallet etc. Also saw another animal native to Bolivia called a cuati, which is sort of like a mix between an anteater, dog, and cat like thing. What started off as what I thought was a joke, between me and a mountaineer friend, who we were staying with, ended out with four of us climbing the over 6000 meter peak Huayni Potosi. After 8 hours of walking we found ourselves 150 meters from the top, with me too altitude sick and exhausted for it to be safe to go on, so after 20 minutes of resting and feeling like my head might explode, we turned back for the 3 hours trek to the bottom again, with no real victory of conquest and definitely no desire to climb any sort of mountain ever again, but with a few pretty pictures, dehydration, and a splitting headache, which was almost just as good.

Also in El Alto where we were living I got a chance to see a very different side of Bolivia, much colder, much poorer and much more miserable on the whole. But still met some really cool locals, while watching the world cup final in a brick room with a tarp roof, and went to the biggest market I've ever seen, with climbing gear jackets etc, for a 20th the price of NZ. I could hardly believe that a city of more the a million people could be filled with dirt roads choca with pot holes

Starting university in a about a week's time, to study philosophy, tourism, and languages. Will hopefully get one of the native languages as well, should be another new experience here, meeting new people etc. Also looking at volunteering at a cultural centre soon, if I find the time, and definitely want to help out with an organisation from Canada who go out in the two small towns of Santa Cruz and Beni to build wells, for people in need of a water supply. So depending on my uni timetable I may be able to do that over the next 6 months, or might have to wait until holidays and the end of the year, in which I should have plenty of time.

MAIL IN-BOX

So while the first half of the year has been great, I'm looking forward to the next half of the year. Being able to speak Spanish and knowing the city a little better, I have more opportunities to do a wider variety of stuff, as well as the freedom that will hopefully come with being at university.

chau
John

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