

# AFS North Shore Newsletter

Jan/February, 2012

PO BOX 331686  
TAKAPUNA  
NORTH SHORE 0740

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



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

## OUR FIRST AFS CHAPTER MEETING FOR 2012

**Sunday 19 February 2011**

***SUNNYNOOK COMMUNITY CENTRE***

**CNR SUNNYNOOK RD & SYCAMORE DR, SUNNYNOOK**

## WELCOME PICNIC

We hope you've all had a wonderful holiday and are duly refreshed!  
Welcome back to our recent returnees, ALL members of our North Shore AFS family, and greetings to our new arrivals.

So you have plenty of time to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones, **we'll begin with a picnic at 5 pm.** Bring your own favourite food and drink as well as plates, glasses, cutlery, something to sit on, and a bag for your rubbish. (It will be an indoor picnic if wet!)



Returnee meeting for 4.30 before 19 Feb picnic – parents of new returnees and new returnees.  
**Please Contact Iona** ([orientation@afsns.org.nz](mailto:orientation@afsns.org.nz)) to check if this will take place.

## AGM

**Followed by our AGM at 7:00pm.** We begin with our AGM, brief but essential, and we will also welcome both our new hosted students who arrived in January and our recent returnees.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

## AGM POSITIONS – CAN YOU HELP?

AFS is a volunteer organisation. Volunteer is about Team. Team is about contributing your bit to achieve the common goal. Team is about not about letting someone else take all the load.

So the next meeting is the AGM, yes the boring meeting of the year, but a very necessary one. As per requests this year's meeting will be "abbreviated".

Several of the current role holders are happy to stay on board, but all have stated that they will remain only if returnees and the immediate past and current parents of students put up their hand and come on board to "assist" in the running of the chapter. It does not require huge hours, just a few hours per month.

So come on board and return something to AFS North Shore for what it has given your son or daughter.

Experienced people will remain on or to assist the committee this year, Winston, Elizabeth, Susan, Heather, Su, Pamela, and Iona, but we DO need new blood to help with new ideas and to look to the future.

**PUT YOUR HAND UP, CONTACT ME NOW FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO DISCUSS OPTIONS. THANKS**

Winston, 027 222 3296, [president@afsns.co.nz](mailto:president@afsns.co.nz)

## ROLES FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:

**President** - the face of AFS North Shore. Oversees the running of AFS North Shore, leading a very able committee. You don't have to be the one to come up with ideas but be open to suggestions. Run the committee and AFS North Shore meetings. Occasionally may be called upon to help sort out issues but this is rare. Liaise with National Office.

**Orientation Support / Pastoral Care** – Assist with organising the returnees who are very keen to help. Pastoral support to the students and parents who are having challenges during their exchange. Orientation is a **team** of people, so **join** the team.

**Secretary** – typing the meeting minutes and the occasional letter. (2 hours a month)

**Promotions** – organise "one" AFS presence at a single event. Or get a **team** and organise a whole year of events, via roster. Everything is provided free, it just needs co-ordinating.

**Fundraising** – roster three BBQs outside the Bunning's or The Warehouse in Albany.

**Hosting** – Join the Hosting team and assist Su with matching students with families..

**Newsletter:** An interesting role for anyone with basic typing/computing skills. The newsletter comes out once a month, and as the newsletter editor you determine the content, with assistance and support from the rest of the team, and of course our students.

**Committee** – just come to the monthly meetings, offer your opinion on direction, and see what evolves.

# HOSTING

## **URGENT!!! PLEASE READ THIS:**

The latest bunch of students are due to arrive at the end of this week and we look forward to welcoming nine new students to our chapter from Chile, France, Belgium, Finland, Japan, Switzerland and Canada. We are still three students down on the number we were allocated however, so we would love to hear from you if you can help, even if as a welcome family.

Sadly, there are still **50 unplaced students** selected for NZ who will now be delayed one month or longer, resulting in very unhappy partner countries dealing with unhappy natural families. Some unplaced students have even been calling our Head Office directly, desperate for information about our progress in finding them a host family. AFS NZ now must now pay penalty fees as a form of compensation to those students who are delayed.

**Please, if you have sent your child overseas in the past, and not hosted yourselves, we really need your help.** We know you are busy, but we have had many fabulous host families in the past who have led very busy lives, have moved house while hosting, have hosted while a family member has been seriously ill, have travelled overseas while hosting allowing their student to spend time with their liaison family, etc, etc. With the great support that this AFS chapter offers, we can help any host family at any time.

Please phone Su on 0942-65030 or email [hosting@afsns.org.nz](mailto:hosting@afsns.org.nz) or talk to Pamela (09) 4880509 on the Support team if you think you can help out.

### **From Hayley (Host mum to Carl in 2011)**

Who would have thought that having an extra person to stay for just one year could have such a positive effect on a family? Carl arrived late from Sweden because he was waiting for a host family. We said we would be a welcome family for him but once he arrived it seemed as though he was personally handpicked for us. We quickly found that Carl didn't like getting up in the morning and within a short space of time his bedroom looked like a tornado had hit it (he did tidy it up if asked). However having three teenage sons already, this really didn't seem too much out of the ordinary. To offset the usual teenage behaviour was the way Carl became part of our family; sitting at the kitchen bench to chat, walking the beach to Mairangi Bay, playing touch rugby at the park, doing his allotted chores, and giving everything kiwi a go. He was a great example to our boys with his polite and caring nature. Carl broadened our knowledge of the world, especially Sweden. We spent much more time together as a family last year because of him, so our own relationships have been enriched as well. Our sons have another brother for life and with the constant communication through face book he doesn't seem too far away. Barry and I feel as though we have said goodbye to a son but have comfort in the fact that the world really is a small place and AFS has a hand in making it so.

### Another 2011 hosting story.

About a year and a half ago our daughter decided she wanted to go on an AFS exchange. This led to our association with AFS which culminated in us making one of the best decisions we could have made, to host a French student for a year. Thibault arrived in Jan 2011 and with great sadness on our part left to return home Jan 2012.

It was the first time we had hosted a student so were hoping it would all go well. Our two girls were keen to host someone, but Brandon, our 15 year old son was a bit dubious about the idea.

A few weeks after he arrived our eldest daughter, Natasha, left to go to Otago and a week later our other daughter Nicole left for Argentina, leaving Brandon and Thibault with us. So for us it helped fill the gap of having both daughters leave together, and for Brandon gave him another teenager in the house. Even though Brandon hadn't been convinced about the exchange student idea, he loved having Thibault with us. Thibault became the brother that Brandon had never had, and they enjoyed each others company, delighted in teasing each other, and formed a really close friendship.

Thibault became a lovely sociable addition to our family very quickly, and we loved having him stay. Through Thibault we got to meet other teenagers from all around the world through his school and afs friends, so got to learn about other countries and cultures and meet some really neat young people. It also inspired us to visit, or revisit a lot of New Zealand this year, which made for some really fun times, as we showed Thibault the country.

When Nicole returned from her exchange in Argentina she loved having a permanent, fun classmate and friend in the house, and enjoyed the chance to meet people she may not have met otherwise. Natasha came up from Otago for the holidays to find she had lost her bed, her seat in the car and place at the dinner table but even so still enjoyed having him here!

For us having an exchange student for a year was an overwhelmingly positive, enriching experience. By the time he left, Thibault felt like part of our family, and though it was really hard to say goodbye, we will stay in contact and hopefully see him again before too long.

Aaron and Jackie Taylor



**THIBAUT (IN BLUE T-SHIRT)**  
**CARL (DRIVING)**



## GREAT STUDENTS STILL NEEDING HOMES



Jose Pablo, 16, Costa Rica, football, athletics, basketball, swimming

Jose Pablo is described as an active, responsible, intelligent and honest individual. He loves playing football and athletics along with basketball, biking and swimming. In his spare time he likes listening to music or hanging out with friends. He comes from a very close family and is the youngest of three boys. School is important to Jose Pablo and he works hard to get good grades.



Matej, 17, Czech Republic, skiing, biking, badminton, tennis, nature

Matej comes from Prague. He participates in the modern pentathlon which has five disciplines: running, swimming, fencing, pistol shooting and horse riding (although he hasn't done horse riding yet). For fun he likes to go skiing (downhill and cross-country), to play badminton and tennis and to go cycling. He also loves tramping, fly fishing and being out in nature. He is excited to be making new friends in New Zealand and is looking forward to experiencing a different culture.



Robinson, 15, France, rugby

Robinson is described as an easy going, friendly and attentive individual who likes helping out his elderly neighbours. His big passion is rugby and he trains weekly. His team is in the top five for their category in France. He also likes to go to the cinema, go running and cycling. Robinson chose to go on exchange to New Zealand because it is a country that intrigues him and he is looking forward to playing rugby here and improving his English. He would like to be an actor or work in the wine trade.



Sofia, 17, Sweden, photography, painting, drawing, theatre

Sofia is an intelligent, independent, mature and creative person who comes with glowing references. She enjoys photography, painting, drawing and theatre. She has been acting since she was 5 and is currently involved in an artistic photography programme at her high school. She also studies French once a week after school. Sofia is really excited to be going on exchange and specifically chose AFS because of the values it espouses. She is looking forward to meeting New Zealanders and getting immersed in the New Zealand culture.



Christina, 17, Denmark, the outdoors, swimming, volleyball, flute

Christina is described as an open, tolerant and social girl. She enjoys playing volleyball and plays in a strong team where they practice 4 times a week. She has also been playing the flute since she was 8 years old and mostly plays classical. She loves the outdoors and likes to go for walks and is a good swimmer. She hopes that her year abroad in New Zealand will make her more mature and independent.



Rocio, 17, Chile, painting, drawing, animals

Rocio is a cheerful, generous, creative and thoughtful young lady. She is artistic and loves to paint and draw. She adores animals and has always wanted to be a vet. She is a great student at school and has excellent grades. She is grateful for the opportunity to see another culture during her exchange in New Zealand.



Martin, 16, Argentina, tennis, football

Martin is a fun-loving, caring, affectionate and loyal boy. His main hobby is tennis, he trains twice a week, plays regularly in tournaments for his club and dreams of turning professional. He also likes football and attends an Academy of English three times a week. He is taking part in this exchange to make new friends and to learn about other cultures and ways of life. In the future he would like to become a lawyer.



Jose, 17, Panama, computers, ecology, youth group

Jose is an intelligent, affectionate and friendly person. He has a great relationship with his family and friends. He has many interests including: computers and running a youth group for developing leadership skills and creating awareness of ecological risks in our world. He can't wait to have the opportunity to get to know a new culture. His future plans are to graduate with a degree in computer science and further his education by studying engineering of computer systems.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to 2012 may it be rewarding and prosperous to you all.

Welcome to our most recently arrived students. Enjoy every moment.

Hello to our students in other parts of the world. Be strong and challenge yourself.

This will be my last message as President. It has been a great journey but now I have decided that it is time for someone else to take over the role of president so that I can focus on other things in my life. I would like to thank everyone for all their support over the years, since 2006 when my favourite daughter decided to go on an exchange. I also want to wish the new president all the best...

*Who Moved My Cheese?*, is a [motivational](#) book by [Spencer Johnson](#), which is all about dealing with change. Some of the morals of the book is that change happens, and that the best way to get through change is to adapt to it quickly by letting go of the old and move with the change. It is also important to make the most of the change and enjoy it. So there is going to be a change for myself, leaving the position as president and also, change for the chapter as a new president takes their place.

Cheers Winston 027 222 3296

Gateway Camp for all new students will be 16 – 18 March –this is compulsory  
More information will be given closer to the time.

### **ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

*Sending the newsletter to you electronically saves considerably on our costs and gives you the option of printing it out if you also like having a hard copy. Since both our email and postal address lists were updated last year, it appears that some of you are receiving your newsletters by both methods.*



*If you are happy to receive your newsletter only via email, or if you'd like to change from post only to email, please advise me on [newsletter@afsns.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@afsns.org.nz) and I'll make the necessary changes.*

*Many thanks. Belinda.*



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOSTED STUDENTS

Welcome to the following ten hosted students who have recently arrived in our chapter. We look forward to getting to know you and hope you have an amazing year in New Zealand. Teresa from Italy has been with us since July and now joining her is.....

Student	From	Hosted by	School
Veronica Lehtinen	Finland	Kitchen family	Albany Senior High
Amaury de Cooman	Belgium	Kitchen family	Albany Senior High
Lara Braendli	Switzerland(german)	Tighue-Umbers family	Takapuna Grammar
Valentin Thomas	France	Nicholas family (1 <sup>st</sup> fam)	Rangitoto College
Jonas Gude	Switzerland(german)	Delaney family	Long Bay College
Momoko Makino	Japan	Ingham family	Mahurangi College
Naomi Aidlin	Switzerland (french)	Cullen family (1 <sup>st</sup> fam)	Westlake Girls
TommySt-Amant	Canada (french)	Harris family (1 <sup>st</sup> fam)	Orewa College
Daniela Fontecilla Suckel	Chile	Wickenden/McKenzie family (1 <sup>st</sup> fam, 6 months)	Long Bay College

## WELCOME HOME

Welcome home to the following students who returned during December and January. We hope you had an amazing year overseas, and wish you the very best in your future studies back here in New Zealand.

And welcome back to our Intensive Programme students, - we hope your December and January away was a fantastic experience.

There **may** be an orientation for newly returned students at 4.30 on 19<sup>th</sup> February at Sunnynook Community Centre, immediately before our picnic and meeting.

**Please Contact Iona** ([orientation@afsns.org.nz](mailto:orientation@afsns.org.nz)) to check if this will take place.

## FAREWELL to our departing students

Yes, it's a busy time! February sees the departure for their experience of a lifetime of the following students:

Jan/Feb/March 2012 departures

Dallas Delaney	France	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan (semester program)
Monica Benfatto	Brazil	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Lily Boreham	Argentina	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
Sin Won Park	Argentina	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
Stephanie Kitchen	Germany	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
Catherine Bell	Chile	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Aaron Carbines	Chile	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Stephanie Negri	Chile	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Gwyneth Bassett	Costa Rica	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Kaitlin MacKenzie	Panama	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Ari Basevi	Japan	21 <sup>st</sup> March (semester program)

May you all have an awesome time - make the most of every moment!

## GENERAL NOTICES

### CALENDAR DATES

30<sup>th</sup> Jan Orientation afternoon  
 31<sup>st</sup> Jan ... Back to school  
 16-18 March Gateway Camp  
 18 March AFS meeting?  
 22 April AFS meeting?  
 20 May AFS meeting?

### WHAT'S ON

**3 – 5 Feb** Auckland Lantern Festival  
**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** Waitangi Day  
**18 - 19 Feb** Devonport Food, Wine & Music Festival  
**9 - 10<sup>th</sup> March** Pasifika Festival Day  
**18th March** Round the Bays Fun Run

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING HOSTED STUDENTS:

Amaury from Belgium – 7<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Jonas from Switzerland – 12<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Tommy from Canada – 8<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Daniela from Chile – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb



## RETURNEES' NEWS

Welcome back to:

Mona Harnett  
Danielle Drummond

from China  
from Honduras

21 December 2011  
5 Jan 2012

## MAIL IN-BOX

### Hi from Alyce in Italy.

HELLO EVERYONE! im writing this on my ipod because my computer isnt working so sorry for all the spelling mistakes its not the easiest thing to type on :P i just finished my last day of school and now i have a beautiful two week vacation ahead of me. i know its not as good as the long december holidays in nz but i figure im in italy so i cant really complain. in these two week holidays i'll be going to Verona for christmas where my italian grandparents live and on the 27th i have an old exchange students who my family hosteds sister coming to italy for a week. she is from chile but is living in switzerland at the moment with afs. i'll be showing here around and we'll take her to venezia and verona one day to see the sights (: between the two of us we'll be super international but thats what this exchange is all about (: it really is beginning to look like christmas here. there are christmas markets everywhere and the city is decorated in christmas lights. its so beautiful seeing old churches and towers lit up, not to mention the massive christmas tree in the biggest piazza. all the houses have christmas lights aswell and i dont know about other houses but in my house the inside is decorated intensely aswell. we have about 5 different 'manger' scenes scattered throughout the house. it has a bit more of a magical feeling here because it gets darker a lot earlier and from my city you can see the beautiful mountain ranges covered in snow. i honestly cant wait for christmas day. not to mention the massive christmas lunch. its going to be so delicious. its beggining to get a lot colder here. when i left for school today it was -5 degrees. according to my dad this is a warm year. i hate to think what a cold year is, especially because its not even proper winter yet. january is meant to be the coldest month. i am not at all looking forward to going to school then, i'll be dressed in so many layers i have a feeling i'll look like an eskimo. the language is coming along really well. i now talk all the time in italian. im sure half the time im using the wrong tense or gender but thats okay. you dont learn without trying. its over 100 days that i've been in italy now. crazy how time flies. BUON NATALE and MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all (:

## MAIL IN-BOX

### Hi from Mona in China

Unfortunately its hard to believe that my first article will already be my last , seeing as I am only here for a Semester program.

Sure I wish i could have stayed longer, but the time I have spent here I cant say has ever been boring. I have climbed the great wall of China, seen the stunning imperial palaces, been deprived of cheese for my entire stay, Took part in the Model United Nation

as a delegate of New Zealand, been stuck in a snow storm with no way of getting home, visited temples above the clouds and took Kunfu lessons learning beautiful sword choreography, I mean honestly how many returnees can say they own a sword ?

My time here has just been so fantastic. I wanted to go some place that was completely different from anything i have ever experienced and i think no other country could have fully satisfied me like China has. School; here school starts at 7.30am and ends at 10 pm !

so most students here have all three meals at school! some students that live far away or have a decent excuse can go home at 6, and us exchange students can go home at 4 but we choose to stay until 6pm, because we prefer the school atmosphere during the night.

Transportation; well apart from walking to school everyday in the snow:) the bus is 20 cents to go anywhere in my city and taxi is incredibly cheap as well, I always feel as if I'm in a movie when I'm calling a taxi on the side of the road, because catching taxis is definitely not an everyday thing for us NZers, trains are only used to get from one city or province to another, cheap as well but a claustrophobic

persons worst nightmare they try to fit 230 people in a carriage with a maximum capacity of 120, so everybody really gets to know each other...very well.

Weekend; the main weekend attraction for us youngsters is this magical place called KTV, it is a karaoke complex where you hire private rooms, in these

rooms you are fully equipped with a huge screen, comfortable seating, excellent surround sound with strobe lights and waiters available with a touch of a button.

although it sounds luxurious its is only \$5 (NZD) per hour! we really need one of these on the Shore (hint hint). So then we have shopping...

I guiltily admit that i have bought over 20 items of new clothing in just 4 months, affordability is an evil temptation... (be warned). Family; I think AFS honestly

did such a good selection job, my host sister and I are really close more like best friends, my host father and I always bond well while watching the

sports channel easy to understand (no matter where your from a basket ball game is a basket ball game) my host mother makes me delicious food and she knitted me a scarf <3 They are simply the best host family.

Chinese students at my school are very studious but I find are allot more open than

other asian students and always ask "would you like to be my friend?" which i find very cute. I also love the other AFS students I was placed here with, I couldn't ask for a better bunch all so diverse with so many different opinions on everything. I think that it is insane that China is not a popular option for exchanges as its so important not only for the world economy and the fact that 1.3 billion people in the world are chinese. Even if I was deprived of cheese for half a year it was well worth it to get a taste of CHINA.

TEAM NORTH SHORE			
President		09 426 8429	president@afsns.org.nz
Vice President		410 2012	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@afsns.org.nz">vicepresident@afsns.org.nz</a>
Vice President	Ray Hu	02102344195	vicepresident@afsns.org.nz
Secretary			<a href="mailto:secretary@afsns.org.nz">secretary@afsns.org.nz</a>
Treasurer	Margaret Rolls	478 9488	treasurer@afsns.org.nz
Selection	Susan Olson Heather Hodgson	021 333 197 4491611	<a href="mailto:selection@afsns.org.nz">selection@afsns.org.nz</a>
Orientation		412 7837	orientation@afsns.org.nz
Support	Pamela Cullen	488 0509	support@afsns.org.nz
Hosting	Su Vincent	09 426 5030	hosting@afsns.org.nz
Newsletter editor	Belinda Kitchen	415 4440	newsletter@afsns.org.nz
Fundraising		09 426 8429	fundraising@afsns.org.nz
Intensive programme	Su Vincent,	09 426 5030	intensive@afsns.org.nz
<b>NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>YOU.....?</b>	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting in March.	



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**Sender: AFS North Shore Chapter, PO Box 331686, Takapuna, North Shore City 0740**