

AFS North Shore Newsletter

March, 2012

PO BOX 331686
TAKAPUNA
NORTH SHORE 0740

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



MARCH AFS CHAPTER MEETING FOR 2012

Sunday 25th March 2012 3.00 pm

At Su and Rock Vincent's

76 Dairy Stream Rd, Dairy Flat (off Postman Rd), Dairy Flat.

GOLF INVITATION

All **hosted, selected** and **returnee** students, **their parents and Support Coordinators** are invited to a fun "golf" tournament. A BBQ dinner will follow the golf.



****This is in LIEU of a CHAPTER MEETING,
so it is COMPULSORY for ALL HOSTED STUDENTS.**
See next page for details.**

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Gateway Camp for new arrivals
16-18th March 2012**

Houghton's Camp, 75 Motutara Road, Muriwai.

Check your email for details about transport to and from the camp and what to bring

March AFSNS meeting.

GOLF INVITATION



All **hosted, selected** and **returnee** students, **their parents and Support Coordinators** are invited to a fun "golf" tournament. A BBQ dinner will follow the golf.

- Date:** Sunday 25th March
Time: 3:00pm
Venue: 76 Dairy Stream Rd, Dairy Flat (off Postman Rd), Su and Rock Vincent's house
BYO: *Meat for BBQ
*drinks
* Girls bring a salad to share with others
* Boys bring a dessert to share with others
* golf clubs (pitching wedge and putter) if you have any
* swimming togs
AFS will provide plates, cutlery, cups, serving spoons and serviettes.
Wear: Golf attire (the sillier the better) or casual clothes.
Parking: In the bottom paddock – drive down the drive, all signposted.
RSVP: By Sunday 18th March please to Su Vincent 0942 65030 or 021 251 4302 or mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz

But, don't worry if you've never played golf ... this is just a fun event; a bit like playing mini-golf on a bigger bumpy 9-hole course. To protect property and players alike, tennis balls will be used rather than golf balls. Swimming and petanque also on offer.

Please text us on the day if weather looks doubtful and you want to confirm if it's still on.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a week!! What stemmed from a casual enquiry via the AFS website, to an inquisitive appearance at the AGM resulted in volunteering for the President's role of AFS North Shore! I'm still trying to work out how that all happened (I think Pamela and Rosemary had some influence!)... oh, and did I mention I am about to become a host-mum too! I am very excited to be hosting Florencia and eagerly await her arrival in NZ. I am absolutely thrilled to be allowed the opportunity of finally giving back to AFS North Shore, some of the support and hard work that I received in 1991 as I prepared to go on my exchange.

As Winston steps aside, it is timely to recognize the amazing job he has done as President over the past few years and his boots will no doubt be hard to fill! We hope to see Winston around the chapter in the not so distant future.

I'd like to say a personal "Welcome" to all the students who are here from overseas on their exchange! A big "Hello" to all the families who are hosting or have their children overseas, to the students who are currently away and those that have recently, and not-so-recently, returned!

A big 'Thank you' to the wonderful team of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the Chapter, and as per last year's award, we have the best team in New Zealand by far!

To close off, here's a little bit about me for those of you who I haven't met just yet: I was very fortunate to spend 1992 in Cordoba, Argentina as an AFS exchange student. I spent my year with the amazing Abrile family (host parents and 4 host sisters) and made lasting friendships with my school friends. I have been back to visit them four times and have also had the pleasure of hosting my parents in NZ when my son Milan was born. The Abriles were a welcoming family for me while AFS searched for a host family, however over time I became their 5th daughter and eventually they couldn't get rid of me 😊 My year was true testament of how powerful an AFS exchange really is and 'the experience of a lifetime to discover a new country, learn a new language and make life lasting friends'.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Vincent's for some fun on the 25th 😊

Tracey

0274 982219

CALENDAR DATES

16-18 March	Gateway Camp	
25 March	AFS meeting	(Golf)
29 April	AFS meeting	(Easter
	in your country)	
27 May	AFS meeting	
24 June	AFS meeting	(Midwinter
	Xmas)	

WHAT'S ON

9-10 March Pasifika Festival (Western Springs)
8-18 March Volvo Ocean Race 2011-2012 - Auckland Stopover (Viaduct Basin)
18th March Round the Bays Fun Run
23-24 March Movies in Parks (Western Reserve Orewa)
1 April Auckland International Cultural Festival (Mt Roskill)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW HOSTED STUDENTS

Welcome to the following 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.

Late February/March arrivals.....

Florencia Bello Parodi (Bolivia) Hosted by the Mitchell family (first family) - Massey High School.

Rocio Palomo Bartolotti (Chile) Hosted by Taylor family (first family) - Orewa College.

Robinson Wartel (France). Hosted by Taylor family (first family) - Long Bay College.

Christian Couto Silva (Brazil), hosted by the Mitchell family of Kaukapakapa - attending Orewa College.

A thank you very much to all our wonderful North Shore chapter families who are hosting this round. Thanks to your generosity we are hosting 13 students this year (Jan 2012-Jan 2013). We wish you a wonderful year with your new family members. There are still students waiting to hear if they have a host family, so if you can host or know someone else who is willing to take on this wonderful experience please email Su at hosting@afsns.org.nz

ALL students – please bring your “Record of Community Involvement” books with you to the next chapter meeting.

WELCOME HOME

We would love to hear from you - at either our meetings or drop us a note we can put in the next newsletter.

HOSTED STUDENTS UPDATE

The following 10 students are still waiting for host families. They have already been delayed six weeks and if no families have been found by March 16, we will have to tell them they cannot come to New Zealand. Please, if you can help in any way, even if as a welcome or first family, please contact Su on 0942 65030 or at hosting@afsns.org.nz. I have all the information on them. Many thanks.

REMAINING 2012 STUDENTS



Maria Valeria, Costa Rica, 17, cheerleading, reading, listening to music

Maria is described as an extroverted individual who is studious and organised. Her main passion is cheerleading and she has been doing this since she was 8 years old. She also enjoys listening to music and reading. She is looking forward to going on exchange to grow as an individual, discover a new culture and improve her English. When Maria finishes she wants to go to university to study either Chemical Engineering or Dentistry.



Daniel, Costa Rica, 17, tennis, basketball, playing the drums

Daniel is a friendly teenager who gets on with everyone. His main interests are sport and he enjoys playing tennis and basketball, as well as going to the gym. He also enjoys music and plays the drums. His main motivation for going on an AFS exchange is to discover another culture so far from his own and to meet new people. After school Daniel would like to study to either become an architect or a chef.



Roque, Guatemala, 16, playing the guitar & piano, football, animals

Roque is a responsible, easy going and respectful person. He enjoys playing the guitar and piano. He also likes playing football and has a great appreciation for animals especially cats and dogs. In the future he plans to graduate as an electrical engineer. One of his life goals is to become fluent in English. He is grateful for this opportunity and can't wait to meet his host family.



Faustino, Panama, 17, basketball, soccer, being on the water

Faustino is a fun loving, happy person who loves to make new friends. He likes to keep active and plays basketball and soccer. He is eager to learn about a new culture and immerse himself in a way of life different to his own. In the future he would like to become a marine engineer as he loves being out on the water, on boats, and travelling. He would love to travel the world and learn different languages and experience different cultures.



NOW ARRIVING IN JULY 2012

Lucas, Argentina, 17, travel, boxing, rugby, running, athletics

Lucas is described as a fun loving and flexible yet organised and mature individual. He enjoys participating in numerous sports, particularly boxing, rugby, running and athletics and practices them weekly. He also enjoys travelling and has been to some intrepid places such as Kenya, South Africa and the bottom of Argentina. He enjoys learning other languages and can speak Spanish, Portuguese and English. In the future he would like to go to flight school so he can become a commercial pilot.



Durval, Brazil, 16, extreme sports, basketball, soccer, robotics, theatre

Durval is a teenager with a broad range of interests. He likes extreme sports such as rafting and bungee jumping, plays basketball and soccer, and performs in theatre and dancing. He is also interested in robotics and participates in the "National Robotics Olympics". Durval is heavily involved in AFS and has been a member of his local chapter for a number of years, so he is very excited to be going on exchange.



Edgar, Chile, 17, karate, skiing, camping, fishing, saxophone

Edgar is described as an adventurous, studious and patient young man. He enjoys karate, which he has been doing since he was nine, fishing, skiing in the winter, playing the saxophone, the outdoors and he likes to go camping. Edgar is a trustworthy and responsible person and is the treasurer for his class. He is eager to experience the kiwi culture and lifestyle, and with his interests in the outdoors we are confident he will fit into the kiwi way of life with ease.



Alejandro, Chile, 16, soccer, basketball, volleyball, swimming

Alejandro lives with his parents and 4 siblings. He is the second eldest and as such has a sense of responsibility for his younger siblings. He enjoys playing soccer, basketball, volleyball and swimming and practices these weekly. He studies both French and English outside of school and hopes that spending a year in New Zealand will help him improve his English. He also hopes to become more independent and mature on his exchange and is looking forward to making new friends.



Diego, Chile, 16, the outdoors, camping, fishing, history

Diego is described as an honest, responsible and friendly individual. He enjoys being outdoors and in nature and likes to go camping with his family in the summer and fishing with his father. He is also fascinated by history and likes to actively learn about his culture. This is one of the main reasons he has applied to go on an AFS exchange, to learn about another culture. In the future he would either like to go to military school or study sociology at university.



Ze Bin, Malaysia, 17, listening to music, volleyball, swimming

Ze Bin is an extroverted individual who has a good sense of humour and gets on well with everyone. He likes listening to music, playing volleyball and swimming. At school, he was the president of the Chinese Orchestra. He is unsure of what he would like to do in the future but hopes that his year abroad in New Zealand will provide him with some direction.

HOSTED STUDENTS UPDATE – LIFE IN NZ



Daniela from Chile:

New Zealand is not like I expected; it is better!

The landscape reminds me of the south of my country, but the people are more kind and are more worried about the cleanliness and order.

It has been really hard for me getting used to being without my family from Chile and getting used to the school which is really different from my school at home, but my host family have been helping me a lot and I couldn't imagine a more beautiful family.

I have had a lot of fun, and I hope to have some more in the future.

Veronica from Finland:

Experiences have been wonderful! I really like NZ! :D I am used to the New Zealand's daily life and it's good, school and everything. :) School is going well and I have got to know new people and I have got many friends. The school is a little bit different, but cool :D and the school uniforms have been a fun experience!

INBOX

FROM DALLAS DELANEY (FRANCE)



Bonjour everybody :)

Seeing as I've been here for a month already, I figured it was high time I sat down and actually sent a proper update, so here it is.

France, so far, has been absolutely spectacular. I arrived in Paris and spent a couple of nights there as an orientation weekend with AFS. I got to meet people from all around the world and shared a room with two girls, one from New York and the other from Costa Rica. It was bizarre to think that a couple of days before that I was still in NZ. We did a bus tour through Paris one afternoon, and got a brief view of all the sights, but spent quite a while at the Eiffel Tower, which was great but we didn't get to go up it. My host family is making plans to go back during school holidays so I can see everything properly.

From Paris I took a train to Rennes, which is the big city about 10 minutes away from where I live. The train took just under 2 hours, heading west into Bretagne which is the sticky-outy peninsula in the north west. I'm living in the country just out of a couple of little villages (Bedee and Montfort) where me and my host siblings go to school. It was funny - at the orientation in Paris, everyone was asking if I lived on a farm in NZ and if there were sheep around, and now I live in the country where there are sheep, chickens and cows along my road.

My host family are all really lovely. I taught my host siblings how to play ninja and now it's their favourite game and they've started teaching it to all their friends at school. I also taught them 'the quiet game' for the long car rides.

School's been good. I've only had 6 days because we had 2 weeks of holidays and on the other days there was ice on the roads so there were no buses running. I don't understand any of my classes, with the exception of English. And even then she uses English in some creative ways. The teachers speak too quickly and it's too technical, although I had the strange experience in maths of being able to work out the equations and the questions but not knowing what on earth I was doing.

The food is amazing, and when I arrived at the home of my host family for the first time they busted out the baguettes and various cheeses during and after lunch. The lunches at school aren't quite on the same level... but still.

Rennes is really cool, I still find it really cool to go shopping in all these little modern shops set in massive old buildings. I also took my first ride on the metro while hanging around there.

I spent a weekend by the sea and visited Mont-Saint-Michel which is this massive old cathedral sitting on an island and it was absolutely amazing. Since it was the middle of the winter and we went on a Monday, it was almost empty. I hear it's usually crawling with tourists. On the same trip we went to Saint-Malo which is a city on the seaside with a massive wall right around it which we walked all the way around. While there I noticed a street sign for Rue du Chat Qui Danse (Dancing Cat Road).

And finally during the holidays I spent the second week down south in the Pyrenees. I learnt how to ski! The classes were difficult to understand - they were in French - but I managed. We stayed in a village surrounded by mountains and it was all really beautiful.

So I think that's about it right now. Everything's going really well, it's starting to warm up, the first flowers have come out and I'm having a really good time :)

Dallas

FROM ALYCE TAYLOR (Italy)

CIAO A TUTTI!

I can't believe it, It has almost been half way through the exchange. This coming Sunday I will have been in Italy for 150 days. My sense of time has been completely distorted and it has already been one month of 2012. Christmas and New Years were fantastic. Days spent inside with the fire going with the family and close friends, eating a lot of delicious food and soaking up the festive atmosphere. Unfortunately, the holidays here for Christmas only last for two weeks so I was back at school around the 9th of January. Since then though everything has been pretty full on. I have been and stayed in the mountains in Cortina and did extreme sledding on a course like the luge at Rotorua, I celebrated my 18th birthday and also celebrated an 18th birthday of another exchange student that is here from Portugal. We also welcomed a new girl into our group of exchange students from Treviso. She is a girl who comes from Argentina and is here for three months, and in two weeks time another girl arrives from Canada for three months as well. This will put our group of exchange students up to 12 which is one of the biggest in all of Italy. Today I begun a new time table at school here and in one week I have 10 hours of Spanish, and on Wednesdays 5 out of 6 of my classes are Spanish. Its a bit strange because I only have four hours of English a week, but its fine. Hopefully I'll come back to New Zealand understanding a bit of Spanish as well. I remember writing before and saying that this was expected to be a warm winter. I couldn't have been more wrong. Its apparently the coldest winter that we have had in 17 years and today it was snowing. In Veneto (my region) we call these days that are the coldest of the year "Giorni della merla". All in all though everything is fantastic, I love my family, the other exchange students here, my beautiful city, and the delicious food! Everyday I'm astounded by the new opportunities that keep arising for us exchange students. Hope that all is well in the beautiful New Zealand and that everyone enjoys their last bit of holidays before school and uni starts up again (: Alyce Taylor - Treviso, Italy. xxx

AFS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

20-22nd April – Pukekohe. Registration fee required – If you would like to attend please contact Tracey Mitchell for more details.

TEAM NORTH SHORE			
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Intensive programme	Su Vincent,	09 426 5030	intensive@afsns.org.nz
NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 4 th April 7.30pm Africa Bar, Albany	

If you are happy to receive your newsletter only via email, or if you'd like to change from post only to email, or you wish to no longer receive the newsletter, please advise me on newsletter@afsns.org.nz and I'll make the necessary changes.

Many thanks, Robyn

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