

April 2012

PO BOX 331686
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April 2012 AFS CHAPTER MEETING

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

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Special Points of Interest:

North Shore is currently
hosting 15 students from:
Italy, Belgium, Chile,
Switzerland, Japan, Canada,
France, Finland, Bolivia,
Brazil

And our 2012 students (11)
have gone to:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile,
Costa Rica, Denmark,
Germany, Netherlands,
Panama

**Sunday 29th April 2012
7pm**

**At Sunnynook Community
Hall**

Come prepared to tell
us how you celebrate
Easter in your home
country



Postage is increasing.
To continue receiving
your newsletter by
mail ACTION
REQUIRED.

See Page 11 for details

President's Report

It is wonderful to see all of our 14 long stay students are now living happily here on the North Shore and I trust you are all enjoyed your school holidays and used this time to get out and about to explore Auckland or further afield.

A big 'Hello' to our students in other parts of the world. I know some of you have been facing challenging times recently, but have all held your heads high with great courage and admiration.

As with the fundamental principles of AFS, differences are often not right or wrong, just different, and that is an everyday event for all of us everywhere.

Congratulations to Morgan Allen who has recently been selected to participate on an

AFS exchange. Welcome to the AFS family and all the best for your journey ahead!

This month we celebrate Anzac Day on Wednesday 25 April, a day to remember those that fought to preserve our culture and way of life. I encourage all students to attend one of the dawn services held around Auckland as this is a great opportunity to participate and learn more about the NZ culture. We celebrate both our veterans and the bonds that were forged in war, and also AFS as it was formed by the ambulance officers of World Wars I & II, who firmly believed that personal interaction and friendships could build international peace.

Next weekend South Auckland will be hosting the AFS New Zealand 57th Annual Conference and 65th anniversary dinner. I look forward to participating in this conference along with 3 other committee members, and will provide an overview at our next chapter meeting.

In July we will welcome 5 IP students, so please get talking to friends and family and help us find homes for our short-stay students.

A big thank you to the AFS North Shore team for the great job that you continue to do!

Cheers
Tracey
0274 982219

Ins and Outs

AFS are urgently seeking a permanent home for Rocio from Chile. Rocio is currently with her welcoming family and attending Orewa College. Our preference is for a family within the Orewa College school zone, but happy to talk with any family who would like to host this positive student. If you can provide a home to Rocio or may know of others that can host her please contact.

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*Congratulations to
Morgan Allen for being
selected for France in July*

Dates for Your Diary

Event	April	May	June
Chapter Meeting	29th	27th	24th
ANZAC Day	25th		
Queens Birthday Holiday			4th



As part of the museum's Anzac commemorations, there is a film being projected onto the front facade of Auckland Museum as part of the annual Illuminate series to celebrate our veterans and the bonds that were forged in war and, for many, lasted a lifetime. This film will play over two nights, 21 & 22 April, 7.30 – 10pm at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland

Inbox

From the Land of Pasta and Pizza (March 2012)

Hi it's Charlotte Farrimond-Kelly here. I started my experience early September 2011 and I'm on the year program to Italy.



My city, Barletta, is based in the region of Puglia. This is in the south of Italy for those of you who don't

know. There are about 100,000 people but there are a lot of other cities nearby that are only 10mins away by train so it can feel much bigger. I live next to a beautiful 1000 year old castle (built in the 10th Century by the Normans) that's literally across the street and the beach is 2mins walk from where I live. I have a 12 year old brother, an eighteen year old brother and a host mum. Her partner doesn't live with us but he's basically part of the family.

So that's my situation. Now here's some stuff I'm actually experiencing.

I'm going to start with the hard/bad stuff because then I can finish with the good stuff AND I think it's important if you're thinking about coming to Italy to hear about both sides.

The language for me was and is very difficult. Everyone told me before I left how I would be pretty fluent after about three months and this was not the case. It built up a lot of pressure and false expectations for me which was really difficult. In

retrospect I wish I'd worked harder to learn the language before I left and in terms of becoming fluent, this is very dependent upon the language of the country where you are going, your previous knowledge of the language and your own skill-sets in language learning. Several months down the track, it isn't such an issue any more and I understand and can speak Italian but it would have been great to be more proficient earlier.

Another thing I find really hard and that I didn't expect was how much LESS independent I am/have to be here. I mean I come to the other side of the world, by myself to people I don't know, a language I don't speak. I felt like I was leaving the nest, finally spreading my wings!, I was gaining new freedoms and I was becoming independent. This is definitely not the case. Kids/Teens have A LOT of freedom in kiwi land. We bus around, stay at each others house's, make ourselves food, contribute to house work, get jobs and manage our own money. Here? Not the case. Every time I leave the house I need to text my host mum to

advise her where I'm going & who it's with etc. I can't have certain friends round at the house because they're boys and in summer I wasn't even allowed to wear certain clothes. Despite offering to and wanting to, I don't do anything round the house in terms of contributing to housework and neither do my host brothers. I don't even clean my own room!

Ok last bad thing I promise; school is really challenging. I thought N.Z school was challenging at times, But this! Wow at least I've come to appreciate a lot of stuff since coming here. We stay in the same class all day (5 hours) and attend school 6 days a week.. The primary teaching method basically is that of memorizing (sometimes very boring) stuff in giant text books. That's the same for every class. The teacher stands up the front talking non stop for the hour then gives us pages of homework to basically memorize. There are also 'interrogations' ALL the time grrrr. This is like a verbal test with one student facilitated by the teacher and done in front of the entire class randomly any time. The schools are a lot poorer with few facilities with a lack of sports and additional activities.

Well, Now I can move onto some good stuff =)

Ok so to cover the obvious first. **THE FOOD IS AMAZING YES.** I cannot start to describe how sad I will be to leave the food. It actually is all so delicious and not only that but it's pretty cheap.

Of course the cities, culture and history is incredible as well. I mean, you can see photos and hear things but walking into those churches, down the streets and being exposed to the amazing landscapes and architecture - it is really something quite different. Those are the givens though, I mean its Italy right?

The thing that struck me is how warm the people are here. I think the north varies from the south and the same even with cities and

Here also people always go out so it's never boring. And I mean always! In summer it's the most full-on. You go to school, come home for lunch, then go out for 2-3 hours then come home and study then go out again in the evening for another 2-4 hours! **EVERYDAY!** Another pretty cool thing is the drinking age in Italy is 16, so I can go to clubs and bars here. However it's not like us kiwis with our binge drinking culture. Most of the time people will be very sensible with only one or two drinks.

Ok so, in general now, I'm good at the moment. There are good days and bad days and boring days and exciting days and sometimes even perfect days. But that's what these experiences are. Absolute crazy roller-coasters in which you grow and change so much that it's hard to make sense of it all. But I'd recommend it 100%.

I'll be writing again soon!

Ciao !! Un bacio ! (a kiss)



The Castle in Barletta next to Charlotte's Home

Charlotte in Venice



Hi from Panama!

My name is Kaitlin and I have been living in a town called Penonome in Panama for almost a month now. I am so glad I choose to come to Panama, as it is such a beautiful place with the most friendly people, although I do wish I had chosen somewhere cooler at times, . Panama is a small country with a population 3.5 million and is located in Central America (bordering Colombia and Costa Rica). People's perception of Central America may be poor and third world countries but this is definitely not the case. Panama is very modern with huge shopping malls, houses with air con, sealed roads, good hospitals and well equipped schools.

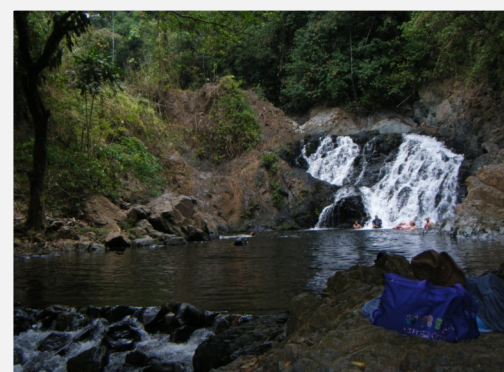
The first few weeks in Panama were the hardest for me, a new place, new school, new people and the hardest of all, a new language (Spanish). But after a month here I can officially say that Panama is starting to feel like home. I have made lots of friends at school and I love my family and life here. My Spanish still



needs a bit of work but I'm sure I will get there eventually (I knew very little when I arrived).

One of the biggest things that has happened so far was my trip to a place called Embera Drua with AFS(costing \$32 US dollars). Embera Dura is a small native Indian village . Altogether there were about 25 students, three brothers/sisters and two adults on the tour. Firstly we went on wooden boats (with power boat engines) up a river that was surrounded by jungle to a beach where we all walked a short distance into the jungle (through rivers) to a

water fall. At the waterfall some people went swimming. After awhile we walked back to the boats and went further up river to the village. At the village they gave us fish, platano (like banana), watermelon and pineapple for lunch and we got drawings on our skin with an ink that lasts about a week. I got a design around my ankle. While we were at the village we looked at the small markets they have and I bought a necklace with a hummingbird and a flower on it that is made out of wood and is very pretty. We listened to some of the Indians playing music and watched them dance. All of the people were wearing their traditional costume; the girls wore brightly coloured sarong skirts and beaded tops and the boys a cloth and a beaded skirt. The young boys



played soccer on the dirt field with some of the AFS people joining in. I got to talk to some of the German exchange students. It's funny because I thought that when I was with AFS students, English would be the language of choice but there were so many German students they were all speaking German to each other. All of them had pretty good English as well so I could still talk to them. At the village there was also another group of people on the tour from the university who are learning English. Later in the afternoon we all piled back into the boats and went back to the bus. It was a very long fun day.

If you want to read more about what I am up to, have a look at

my blog at myexchangetopanama.tumblr.com

Hey Everyone,

So I'm here in Caicara, population 5000, a very small city located in the north of Rio Grande de Sul, and having the most amazing experience of my life! The people, community, food, culture are all part of a long list that names all the things I love about Brazil. I live in the country side where there is lots of rivers, lakes and farmland with the most beautiful landscape. I think its fair enough to say very different from the Brazil you see advertised on T.V. I have been here for almost 2 months and have picked up the language very well. When I first got to Brazil the only words I knew were hello, goodbye and thank you. Now I am able to have a conversation with people and understand most of what is being said in class. Here I have been experiencing things that I could never have imagined I would be able to experience. I have seen many exotic animals, eaten exotic food, and met the most incredible people.

My family in Brazil is amazing. I couldn't of asked for any other family. I get along with them perfectly and love them so much. They are all such loving, affectionate, down-to-earth people with a good sense of humor :). While here I have started playing football. Before coming here I had never played and now I really enjoy it. I have also been able to go to some shows with my friends of some famous Brazilian singers. Which I really enjoyed. The first week of being here I was interviewed to be in the local newspaper. I am the first exchange student that has ever stayed in my city. So everyone was excited to know who I was and meet me. I kind of feel like a celebrity. I also got to go to carnival, it was different from the big carnivals in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo but still alot of fun.

School is really challenging but is a big help with learning the language. I do all the same homework and test that my class mates do. I find myself spending most of the time during the test trying to figure out what is written and then trying to figure out how to write it in Portuguese. Teachers here are so cool and the relationship between them and the students is so neutral. Unlike New Zealand there is no higher ranking of the teacher, they are treated like friends.

Overall, Brazil is AMAZING!! And I already know that when I am older I am going to start my life here. Only 2 months of being here and my eyes have been open to a world of remarkable settings and stages that I cannot wait to explore!

Hope all is well in New Zealand!

beijos e abraços

tchau

Monica Benfatto.

Golf Day

Despite so much rain during the week, Sunday afternoon was beautiful with the sun shining and a bit of a breeze. Everyone (well, almost everyone) showed up in their costumes and played a round

of golf. This was followed by a swim, where those that didn't bring their togs ended up in the pool anyway! And finally BBQ dinner and prize-giving. Thanks to Rocky & Su Vincent

for hosting and organising this very enjoyable event.

Found Tortoise shell frame sunglasses left at Golf Day CRUDE brand—see Su Vincent



Hosting

The last of the year programme students were placed in early April and will shortly be arriving in NZ. There is no rest for the wicked, however, and now we have the two month intensive (IP) students to place. These students are predominantly from France, Spain and Italy, with a few coming from Belgium, French speaking Canada and Malaysia. The profiles are going up on the website http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student_profiles/ so if you are interested in hosting an IP this year, have a look online and please contact me ASAP. It's a case of first in, first served and I'd hate you to miss out on a student you really like the look of. The students will be arriving around 12 July (during the second week of the school holidays) and will depart again on 6 September. Our chapter has been asked to place five IPs and it would be wonderful if we could place them early. I can be contacted on 0942 65030 or at hosting@afsns.org.nz

Thanks a lot

Su

In the meantime, here are few profiles that may be of interest:



Estelle, 16, French Belgium, piano, movies, sports

Estelle is a happy, curious and very sociable girl with many friends to whom she is loyal and faithful to. Her parents describe her as being outgoing, independent and caring of others. Music is an important part of her life as she has been playing the piano for the past eight years. She is looking forward to attending school in New Zealand where she will be able to try new sports, activities and subjects that are often not offered in European schools. Estelle is passionate about movies and has a dream of becoming a film producer.



Clara, 16, France, swimming, tennis, theatre, guitar

Clara is an open-minded and pleasantly natured girl who enjoys being a part of a family that spends time together. She has studied abroad before and is confident with being away from home and discovering new cultures and living with new people. She enjoys swimming, playing tennis, going to the theatre, playing the guitar and listening to all types of music. She is interested in history, politics, current events and travelling. Clara would like to be an ambassador for France one day.



Ines, 15, France, piano, ballet, dance, sports

Ines is a happy, friendly and outgoing individual. She is very interested in sports, dancing and playing instruments. She describes herself as an artistic person who enjoys practising ballet and playing the piano. Ines is a very active teenager that likes doing all sorts of extra-curricular activities whilst maintaining a focus on her studies at school as well. She has had ample experience of travelling abroad with her family and wishes to continue her adventures in New Zealand living with a nice host family and making new friends.

**Pietro, 17, Italy, cooking, swimming**

Pietro is an open-minded, talkative and affectionate boy. He is in a swimming club and likes to keep fit through exercising daily. He is very helpful in the house and enjoys cooking and serving his family. He describes himself as being an extrovert, outgoing and someone who enjoys being around people. Pietro hopes that this AFS experience will allow him to make new friends, taste new foods, learn about a foreign culture and improve his English language skills.

**Cesar, 17, Spain, guitar, saxophone, basketball, swimming, cycling, archery, diving, snowboarding**

Cesar is a friendly, funny, polite and affectionate boy who is hardworking and responsible. His hobbies include basketball, swimming, cycling, archery with his father, diving and snowboarding. He is passionate about music and plays the guitar and saxophone. In the future he thinks he would like to study industrial engineering but is not entirely sure right now.

**Julie, 16, French Canada, animals, the arts, music, soccer**

Julie is described as an open, generous and friendly teenager. She enjoys making new friends and is looking forward to meeting new people in New Zealand. She is an animal lover and has a pet rabbit called Zoe. She plays soccer, likes going to art galleries, enjoys cooking and likes listening to music. Once she has finished high school Julie would like to attend an English speaking University.

TEAM NORTH SHORE

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 9th May 7.30pm 116 Albany Heights Rd, Albany	

Find us on the web at www.afsns.org.nz

Subscription Notice

Subscriptions (for year ending 31/12/12) for the North Shore Chapter is due. \$50/family and \$25 for an Associate Family (after 3 years involvement). No fee for hosting families and committee members. Sending families are expected to join before their student leaves NZ. Part of the subscription is passed on as levies to the National Office and the remainder is used for our own Chapter expenses including paying the cost of this newsletter.

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 Thank-you for your support.

Mailed Newsletter Notice — Action Required!

Postage is going up on 1 July, which will add substantially to our costs of providing a mailed newsletter each month. So we have taken this opportunity to look at the mailing list as we still have over 150 people receiving a mailed newsletter.

If you are receiving a mailed newsletter please take the following action else you may no longer receive a newsletter after 1 July.

1. If you are happy to receive an emailed newsletter only: email newsletter@afsns.org.nz with your preferred email address and your mailing address (so the mailing address can be deleted).
2. If you do not have email, or for some reason you want a mailed newsletter, please ring Robyn on 473-4449 and leave a message with your name and postal address.

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