

June 2012

PO BOX 331686
TAKAPUNA
Auckland City 0740

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

Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
Dates for your Diary	3
Inbox	3
Life in NZ	4
Inbox	5
Hosting	8
Team North Shore	10
Notices	11

Special Points of

Interest:

North Shore is currently hosting 16 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, Japan, Germany, Netherlands, Panama

June 2012 AFS MID WINTER MEETING



This is always the social highlight of our AFS year where EVERYONE (returnees, families, hosted students etc.) come together so please join us.

Sunday 24th June 6pm – 10pm

Dairy Flat Hall: Corner of Postman Rd & Dairy Flat Highway (SH17) Map over page

Please bring to share:

A Salad AND Dessert (big enough for the number of people in your family coming). AFSNS will be supplying the meat and rolls. Hosted students bring your Secret Santa present. Please RSVP Su 0942 65030 or mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz by 17 June

For yourselves: Dress up in a Christmas theme: an elf, a fairy, green and red. Bring amazing decorations for your table. Prizes to be won !!

Bring your own plates, cutlery, glasses and whatever you wish to drink.

LAST REMINDER

This will be the last newsletter by mail
ACTION REQUIRED.

President's Report

Well I am back as the President for AFS North Shore. I feel honoured to be approached to assist again, and how quickly things change in ones life and circumstance.

Thanks to Tracey for filling the Presidents Role this year, until her recent relocation to Christchurch.

Shortly after accepting to stand in as President for the balance of this year, I too find myself temporarily based in Christchurch, living away from "home".

Last week I had the opportunity of a full tour inside the red zone, to witness first hand, the damage and destruction. The ever increasing vacant lands in Christchurch are evidence of destruction.

These visual realities, rapid changes to my life, the circumstances of others, is again a stark reminder to us of the continuing need to adjust, adapt, and remain tolerant of change and difference. Life often moves

with incredible pace, in multiple directions. Some good, some bad, sometimes exciting, sometime bland.

All these are the principles and aims of AFS. Tolerance and adjustment to another culture and different way of life.

Next meeting is the most popular of the year, the mid winter feast. Come join us at the Dairy Flat Hall to celebrate another year of AFS.

Winston

Location of Mid Winter Meeting: Dairy Flat Hall



Dates for Your Diary

Event	June	July	August
Chapter Meeting	24th Mid-Winter Xmas	29th Megazone	26th to be decided
Volunteer Planting Day (Community Service)	24th 10—12am Valley Rd turn around off Onewa Rd, Northcote		

What's On

Free Entry to MOTAT 1-30 June 805 Great North Rd, Western Springs

Matariki festival (Maori New Year) 21 June—21 July see the website for more details
www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events

Inbox — Life in NZ

Hi guys



Yeah, four months are already over, the time passed so quickly, it is amazing. Before I went onto my exchange heaps of people told me, it would be my best year of my life or at least my best six months. Now I have to say it became fully true, I had an awesome time since I arrived and I will never forget it. Still, it's kind of sad that I've only seven weeks or so left, because on the one hand I'm looking forward to see friends and family again, but on the other hand there's so much I will miss from New Zealand. If someone had asked me if I wanted to stay six months more, I probably would have said yes, but I think I have to accept my exchange is slowly coming to an end.

However, I can say, I had a great time with my Host family, I made lots of new friends and I could do so much cool stuff I've never done before, (e.g. fishing, bungee-jumping, Skydiving and lots more) Especially the trip to the South Island was just incredible, I mean Switzerland is quite nice, but the scenery down there was just awesome.

I never had something like a cultural shock; life here is in many ways similar to life in Switzerland, maybe a bit more relaxed. The people drive on the wrong side of the road and it is so much warmer here in New Zealand. When I arrived in January it was minus 15°C degrees in Switzerland. And when I leave I will have two summers, can you get anything better?

OK, another difference is the school. At my school in CH the youngest students were sixteen and the oldest nineteen, here I'm surrounded by lots of loud juniors, what can sometimes be really annoying. I also wasn't used to school uniforms, which were in the beginning quite funny, but now I have to say, I hate school uniforms. Apart from that I really like my school here.

Yeah, there are some differences, however, the food is again pretty much the same, even if it is weird that people really eat Vegemite for breakfast, or that someone would like to eat Spaghetti on his Pizza. But one of the things I will definitely miss when I go back is fresh Snapper; I've never had fresh fish like that before.

So I'm really enjoying my time here and yeah that's all

Jonas

Life in NZ



"I am Teresa, from Italy and I've been already 10 months in New Zealand. Can't believe it, only one more month to go. How to describe my year here... I could talk about the horrible and changeable weather and the annoying/ expensive/ always late buses. or how much i miss the delicious and healthy italian food or how EVERYONE makes jokes about my accent (its not even funny anymore :)) and how there is no way that kiwis understand you if you don't say a word with the perfect pronounciation (I had some trouble here :P)

But, hey! Have to say: New Zealand is cool! The landscapes are just stunning, the lifestyle is incredibly relaxing, the people are nice. The

only little problem is the required age to drink and go clubbing ;P

I had an amazing time here and if I was given the opportunity to decide whether to do it all over again.. well, the answer would be yes! Definitely!

Well, Im off to Fiji in one day (you people better be jelly :P) and I am supposed to be packing now.

Just wanted to say to all of you guys ENJOY EVERY SINGLE MOMENT here and make the most of it because the time goes so incredibly fast and you will realize it soon!

And come all at the christmas dinner thingy because im going to have my amazing speech haha".



"Hi everyone

First of all, let me introduce myself.

My name is Amaury de Cooman from Brussels, Belgium. I'm 18 and I'm at Albany Senior High School.

I'm here in New Zealand for 5 months and I just began my last month.

My experience from the beginning has been the most fantastic that I have ever done in my life. I'm having such a great time here.

I was really scared before I left home and when I arrived I realized that I had no reason to be.

I have been really lucky for my host family, I get along really well with all of them but mostly with my host father. Both of my parents are funny tough. At home, I have one host sister and Veronica, another AFS exchange here for a year who I get along pretty well with. We're both having a lot of fun together, I mean at least in my opinion.

In my family there is also my best friend, Jazz, the dog that keeps biting me all the time. Everything is going pretty well at school, I directly made many friends and I was happy at school after a few days.

One of the reason why in enjoy New-Zealand so much is because, I've got the opportunity to visit the country with my host family. We often leave for the week-end just to visit. It's amazing !

We've been away to Rotorua, Whangarei, Lake Taupo and even Wellington together and I get to visit and admire New-zealand with them. Therefore I consider myself really lucky to be in this host family.

I've been trying from to beginning to involve myself as much as possible in the kiwi culture. I began to play rugby and I definitely love it even though I get injured every training.

The culture here is really different from the Belgian one but I got used to it. But the biggest differences probably are in the family rules. In Belgium, I've got one older brother and I've never been used to live with girls.

Here I have to be really careful to always remove the toilet seat otherwise, it makes everyone angry at home. It's really funny.

The only thing I miss here is some good chocolate.

I want to stay here forever though, my experience is almost over and I realize how fast time goes. I haven't got any regrets though because I think that I still took the most of it... Still one month to go in paradise though, be sure that I'll enjoy it as much as I can.

Have a good day !

Amaury de Cooman".

Inbox

Hi I'm Morgan and I've been living in Northern Italy since last September. I live in a small town in the region of Como, about half an hour North of Milan, and just on the edge of the Northern Alps. I have had the most amazing year here which will unfortunately be coming to an end in just one month!! Although the Italian life style is in many ways different to NZs, it was not at all hard to get use to!

Italians are very open and friendly people, being the only exchange student at my school they were very interested and everyone made me feel so welcomed even when I didn't speak the language! School is very different, we start earlier, finish earlier, only have one class, have school on Saturday :(((, and the schools are specialized (for example I go to an artistic school which I LOVE!) Then we have the food which as you can imagine is AMAZING! Food is such more of a part of the culture in Italy than it is in NZ and every region, and even sub-region has its own specialty, for example tortellini from Bologna, pizza from Naples, cannoli from Sicily, etc. Another aspect of Italy that NZ don't really have is history and art. Apart from all the ancient paintings, sculptures, churches, and monuments it's the casual things, like walking out of the parking building and realizing there's Roman bathing house ruins underneath! It's actually a common problem in Italy that construction has to be stopped, or altered when ruins are discovered.

Some of the high lights of my trip have been the Carnival in Venice, Christmas with all the family in my host mums hometown close to Rome, skiing/snowboarding in the Northern Alps, the exchange week in Sicily (which is like a whole different country to the north!), exploring Tuscany (including Florence and Pisa), and of course all the normal things like gelato by my beautiful Lago di Como! (Como Lake). There's so much more i could say but its hard to wrap up this year in a few paragraphs. It has been the most amazing experience and i feel like I've grown so much! If not at least my stomach has! (Thank you Italian food). Right now were in our last week of school and I'm very much looking forward to my Italian summer and making the most of my last 30days here!

CIAO A TUTTI.

I'm Alyce Taylor and I'm currently doing an exchange in Italy in a town in the North



*My Host Sister (Mariapia), Myself,
And My Host Brother (Giancarlo).*

East called Treviso. My exchange is now coming to an end and I only have about 40 days left so this will be my last entry in the newsletter! This exchange really has passed very quickly, 9 months of my life have **completely flew before my eyes and before I know it I'll** be on an airplane homeward bound. Half of myself is very excited, and the other half is quite upset. Being able to see my New Zealand family and friends again will be extremely amazing, however leaving Italy is going to be extremely hard. Even if I come back to my home here to visit my host family it will never be the **same. I mean, I won't be at school and I won't be with** the other AFS students. I guess I should just feel lucky

that I was fortunate enough to spend 9 months in what I consider my paradise.

In these last 9 months I have had a lot of opportunities to travel within Italy but also **throughout Europe. I've traveled a lot around the north of Italy to Verona, Venice,** Trento, Trieste, Florence, Cortina, Bassano, Gorizia and other cities (mainly around the regions of Veneto and Friuli). I was also able to travel with my host brother and sister to Rome where we watched Italy versus Scotland play rugby in the 6 Nations (ITALY WON). I also went to Marsala in Sicily during a week exchange. It was such a wonderful experience and I was really able to see the differences between the North and the South of Italy, it really does seem like a whole other country. During the month of April I was lucky enough to go to Belgium to visit two exchanged students that my New Zealand family has hosted over the years. Maude and Charlotte



Charlotte, Myself, And Maude.

Loutch. It was amazing to be able to see them both again and for them to be able to show me their culture and their country. We were also able to go to France and to Luxembourg for a bit which was an added bonus! From the 22nd of April until the 29th of April I had the amazing opportunity to participate in a Humanitarian Peace Project as well as 4 other exchange students from the local chapter and 50 Italian students. We travelled to Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary.

We visited schools, churches and communities buildings and gave donations of money and of boxes full of clothes, food, stationary etc. As well as giving these donations we also tried to spread the word of the Peace Project and get as many groups involved as possible, so that they can then help us try and spread the work throughout their own countries.

Its hard to sum up how much this week meant to me. It really changed my mind about all of these countries. Before travelling to them I had a particular image of them in my head but actually travelling there, seeing these countries with my own eyes and being witness to the beauty that each countries holds completely changed my mind. Being able to meet the people of each of these different nations and to be able to see how hopeful each of them were for a better future really changed me. **It was an amazing week and it will be something that I'm sure I will remember for the rest of my life.** One of the most wonderful things about this experience for me has been that as well as learning about the Italian culture and Italian people I also got to learn about the cultures and the people of the other exchange students here in my local chapter. Throughout the whole year we have had 13 students in Treviso. The year students have come from Paraguay, Domenican Republic, Finland, Serbia, Germany, Thailand, 2 students from the United States, 2 students from Portugal and myself. We also have had a girl from Argentina with us for 6 months and a girl from Canada for 3 months. I have now been able to learn about all of these amazing cultures which has been something extremely fascinating for me. Aside from learning about foreign cultures I have also grown stronger in my pride of being a New Zealander. Its strange living over here I have learnt a lot of new things about our nation that I never knew before just by being able to look at the differences between NZ and Italy. This exchange has taught me many things and choosing to sign up and **have a year overseas has probably been the best choice of my life. I definatly don't feel like the same girl who left Auckland airport last September and that's one of the beautiful things about taking part in an AFS exchange, everything around you changes, your family, your friends, the language, your school, the climate, the food, EVERYTHING so its hard not to change as a person as well. This has definatly been a year of growth, learning and maturity for me. I have so many unforgettable memories and have met so many amazing people.**

“Traveling is a brutality. It forces you to trust strangers and to lose sight of all that familiar comfort of home and friends. You are constantly off balance. Nothing is yours except the essential things – air, sleep, dreams, the sea, the sky – all things tending towards the eternal or what we imagine of it.”

– Cesare Pavese.



Alessa (Dominican Republic), Myself, Lorenza (Italy), & Millie (California – USA)

**THANK-YOU AFS FOR GIVING
ME THIS EXPERIENCE!**

Hosting — PLEASE READ

We **urgently** need families to host IP students in July and August please. We have only placed one of the five students allocated to our chapter. If you can help at all, please contact Su at hosting@afsns.org.nz or on 0942 65030 or 021 2514302.

There are 26 students left nationally who require homes and must be placed within the next two weeks. You can see them on http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student_profiles/ These students cannot be delayed, so it's imperative that we place them by June 22. If you see one you like the look of, please let me know and I'll arrange to get the full profile to you to read.

Here are some of the great students still needing homes:



Max, 16, France

Max describes himself as being easy going, active and energetic. He likes swimming and playing volleyball, baseball and rugby! Max also enjoys going to the movies, music concerts and comedy shows with his friends. He is curious about the world and seeing how different people live. Max wants to experience studying in a New Zealand school where he will have the opportunity to take part in sports, music and other activities that aren't offered at his school in France.



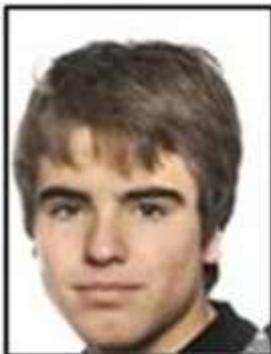
Athenais, 16, France

Athenais is described as a good tempered, helpful and sensitive individual. Athenais is an artistic person who likes to paint and draw as well as being interested in art history. She has recently decided to become a cabinet maker and wants to be able to restore antiques. She loves rugby and enjoys watching it. Other activities she enjoys are archery, swimming and badminton. She is very excited to be coming to New Zealand and is eager to meet her host family.



Virginia, 17, Italy

Virginia has a bright, optimistic and witty personality. She enjoys going to the movies with her friends, listening to all kinds of music, and swimming. She has been playing the piano for 8 years and practices regularly. Virginia would like to participate on this AFS program because she loves travelling and meeting new people from different countries and cultures. She has already been on a 2 month AFS exchange to Ireland when she was 15 years old. Virginia has such fond memories of her experience and wishes to



Jon, 15, Spain

Jon is an active and responsible boy who enjoys having fun. He practices a lot of sports including: football, body-boarding, snow-boarding, skiing and cycling. He enjoys speaking other languages and is studying French and German as well as English. His country choice for an AFS exchange has been influenced by his older brother who came to Wellington on an exchange about seven years ago. Jon can't wait to finally experience what New Zealand is really like.



Rocio, 16, Spain

Rocio is a happy and respectful girl with lots of interests and hobbies. She plays the guitar and even has her own band. She likes basketball and swimming and attends theatre classes once a week. She is well travelled and has a passion for learning languages. She will be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to speak English while on this exchange.



Eleonora, 17, Italy, judo, football, the arts, theatre

Eleonora is a studious and musical individual who has always wanted to go on exchange and stay with a host family. She has recently started judo and likes the ethos behind judo. Her favourite sport is football. She loves reading books and listening to music. She also has an interest in the arts and likes going to the theatre, art exhibitions and the cinema. When she finishes high school she would like to study medicine with the aim of becoming a doctor one day



Emmanuel, 16, France

Emmanuel is a kind, sensitive and witty boy. His parents describe him as being honest and straightforward, gentle, good-tempered and easy going. He has already been abroad many times and has fond memories of his experiences. Emmanuel plays the electric guitar and is in a band with his friends. He also enjoys hiking, rock climbing and skiing. He would like to pursue a career in law or economics in the future and believes that he will gain a wealth of experience being an AFS exchange student to New Zealand.



Liwen, 15, Malaysia

Liwen is a friendly, sociable and adventurous individual. She enjoys reading books and watching movies. She loves to swim and loves music and going to concerts. Once a week she also attends a cooking class. In the future she would like to get into the hospitality industry with the aim of becoming an Air Stewardess so she can get to see the world.

TEAM NORTH SHORE

President	Winston Smith		president@afsns.org.nz
Vice President	Ray Hu	02102344195	vicepresident@afsns.org.nz
Secretary	Belinda Kitchen	415-4440	secretary@afsns.org.nz
Treasurer	Margaret Rolls	478 9488	treasurer@afsns.org.nz
Selection	Heather Hodgson	021 333 197 4491611	selection@afsns.org.nz
Orientation			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	Robyn Wickenden	4734449	newsletter@afsns.org.nz
Fundraising			fundraising@afsns.org.nz
Intensive programme	Su Vincent,	09 426 5030	intensive@afsns.org.nz
NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 12th July 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany	



Our committee members are dwindling as people have to take different paths in their lives. We really need some more volunteers to help . If you are able to give something to this worthwhile organisation to assist future young people to have an experience of a lifetime, we would love to hear from you. Please contact any committee member listed above.

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.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Please fill out this form and post with you cheque to
PO BOX 331686
TAKAPUNA
Auckland City 0740

or pay electronically to Westpac 03 0275 0103471 00 with your surname as a reference.
 Thank-you for your support.

Mailed Newsletter Notice — Action Required! LAST CHANCE — this will be the last posted newsletter

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.

Sender: AFS North Shore Chapter, P.O. Box 331686, Takapuna,
Auckland 0740.