

PO BOX  
331686  
TAKAPUNA  
Auckland City

*From Wellsford to the Bridge"*

## July 2012 AFS MEETING

### A Trip Around the World

Sunday 29 July, 7pm

#### Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
IP Welcome	2
Dates for your Diary	2
Mid Year departures	3
Life in NZ	3
Community Service	4
Plea for help	4
Inbox	5
Mid Winter Dinner	9
Welcome back	10
Team North Shore	11
Notices	11

#### Special Points of Interest:

North Shore is currently hosting 18 students from: Chile, Japan, Canada, France, Finland, Bolivia, Brazil, Spain & Italy

And our 2012 students (11) have gone to:

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

Recent returnees orientation, IP students orientation, and departing students parents orientation 5.45 for 6pm start

**NEW Venue:** North Shore Rowing Club, Northcote Rd

Extension (off Taharoto Rd), Lake Pupuke marked by an arrow on this map.



**Hosted students:** Create a little slice of your country for the rest of us to visit. Create a stall displaying posters, photos, flags, interesting facts, a few common phrases, etc of your national country. Dress in your national costume or wear your AFS t-shirt from your country. Create some food unique to your country and bring it along to share.

Selected students and returnees and their families will have the opportunity to 'fly around the world' learning more about the country they are about to visit.

Listen to the stories from the recent returnees from Italy & France

This will be a truly international fun night—so don't miss it!

## President's Report

AFS NS President Position is once again vacant

Winston, too, has been called to relocate to Christchurch for a few months.

As such he can not attend meetings nor feels he can do justice to the role remotely.

It is therefore time for AFS NS to seek the services of someone else to fulfil the position.

Winston is happy to support someone in this role by being a Vice-President

So now is your chance to volunteer for this leadership role. Please send enquiries and expressions of interest to [president@afsns.org.nz](mailto:president@afsns.org.nz)

We really need someone in this important role.

### Welcome to our IP students:

Nicolas from France. Living with the Swasbrook family and attending Rangitoto College.

Rocio from Spain. Living with the Lee family and attending Orewa College.

Natasha from Italy. Living with the Taylor family and attending Long Bay College.

Paula from Spain. Living with the Taylor family and attending Long Bay College.

Virginia from Italy. Living with the Drummond family and attending Takapuna Grammar.

### Dates for Your Diary

Event	July	August	September
Chapter Meeting	29th International Night	26th To be decided	23rd To be decided
Other		Community Service 11th	

### What's On

Auckland Museum—free entry

Wildlife and documentary photography, to 26 August, in partnership with London's Natural History Museum, BBC Wildlife Magazine and New Zealand Geographic Magazine.



*Happy birthday Valentin—26th July*

## Auckland Orientation for Mid Year Departures



North Shore Chapter bid farewell to 3 students leaving in August for a year long programme:

Candace to Denmark,

Lauren to Serbia,

Saskia to Netherlands in August

The orientation was run with all Auckland chapters together over a weekend with 12 students




---

## Inbox — Life in NZ

Hello I'm Momoko Makino from Tokyo, Japan. I'm 16 years old and I go to Mahurangi College in Warkworth. I have been in New Zealand over 5 months. I have enjoyed my stay in New Zealand very much so far. My host family is so nice and they help me a lot. They teach me English but my English is still not good so I want to improve. I join a lot of school activities such as kapa haka, choir, swimming, basketball, Stage Challenge, homework group and ukulele group. So I'm busy every day but I enjoy being busy and I have made a lot of friends from my activities. I came from Tokyo so there are a lot of differences from Warkworth. Warkworth is a very small town for me and I sometimes I feel it is inconvenient because there is no public transport in Warkworth (in Tokyo, there is very good public transport). But I still like Warkworth very much. It has beautiful beaches, bushes and sheep (I love sheep, they are so cute.). I have no pets, brothers, sisters or even cousins but my host family has 4 children, 40 cousins, a dog, 3 cats, 3 chooks and 8 cows. This is also different for me! I want to improve my English more, make more friends and see a lot more of New Zealand. I'll do my best.

---

## Community Service

Community Service is part of your AFS exchange in NZ and we have students taking part in some wonderful community work— **planting native trees, a mural at a primary school, helping at an old person's home, picking olives.**

August 10-11th is Heart Kids Street Appeal. **Every week, 12 babies are born with a heart defect in New Zealand. @Heart provides practical and emotional support for all those affected.**

@Heart are looking for collectors . So if you are able to spare an hour or two of your time on these days please contact Robyn by emailing [adrw@orocn.net.nz](mailto:adrw@orocn.net.nz) or phone 473-4449 .

Saturday 27 October is the Dairy Flat school Agricultural Day—in previous years AFS hosted students have run their games - so we would like volunteers to do this please. Please contact Su by emailing [mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz) or phone 09 426 5030

Sunday 25th November is the Auckland Annual Santa Parade—watch this space for further information as to how you can participate in this great event

---

## AFS North Shore needs YOU!!!!!!



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 [committee@afsnz.org.nz](mailto:committee@afsnz.org.nz)

**Returnees:** It is time to give back to the organisation that gave you an experience of lifetime so AFS North Shore Chapter can continue to offer this opportunity to other students. Please seriously consider what you have to offer. Please contact [committee@afsnz.org.nz](mailto:committee@afsnz.org.nz)

---

## Inbox

### Dallas Delaney a semester in France

With my semester in France rapidly drawing to a close, my last few weeks have a lot in store for me. My schooling finished on June 11, leaving me with some time to myself while my friends study for the bac. I've taken this time to explore France, encouraged by my progress in French. Living in Bretagne, summer has been slow to come, so I met up with Lily in Marseille for a week of sunshine, relaxation and exploring. The week after will be spent at my house, visiting Rennes and other northern tourist sites. Finally, it will be time to pack my bags and say my final au revoirs before heading home on July 7. I've definitely become more familiar with the French culture. While there are some things that I don't exactly 'get' (like why I had to finish school at 6pm three times a week), it is definitely no longer a foreign concept lurking in my textbooks. While I got along really well with my host family, they were an enormous change from my natural family. It really gave me a sense of and appreciation for how the other half lives.



I think that I've made really good progress in my French. My comprehension even improved to the point that I was receiving some of the best grades in the class for maths and science. I could also feel that my speech - while not perfect - was much faster and fluent, with faster more accurate conjugations and a wider vocabulary, allowing me to speak and be understood without too much searching. I would say this is the level of French I expected and I am immensely pleased with how well I've done. Arriving in France, the most thrilling, daunting thing that's ever happened to me. We arrived early in the morning in the middle of winter, it was pitch black/freezing cold. When we met everyone from around the world at the airport, it was the excitement I was expecting - everyone was buzzing and ready to start their exchange. After the excitement of Paris was the sheer terror of negotiating the train to Rennes then the nervous, happy awkwardness of meeting my host family for the first time. It was easily the most exhausting few days of my life, but exactly as amazing as I thought it would be.

The best advice I could give ... relax, take it in your stride and get enough sleep. I'm not much of a worrier and don't stress too much when things aren't exactly how I planned them. But, I realised that the times when I was worried/stressed/homesick or just feeling bleh were usually when I was tired. So, for me, the best thing to do was to get a good sleep and see if it was still a problem in the morning, and if it was, I took it in my stride and did something about it. ... Arriving felt like ... a different lifetime but only happened yesterday. It's been building up a new life you know is temporary but will shape you and your future, meeting amazing people from all around the world, appreciating the little victories and realising who and what you have at home, and what home even is. It's been finding independence, experiencing life without wifi and crossing the length/breadth of the country just because you have the time.

When I first heard about LIA I was in year 10. My teacher thought I should go for it, I did. Long story short, I got through to the interview, which took place the day after Stage Challenge, when I had just come down with the flu. I eventually got the really disappointing letter saying that I hadn't received the award and continued with Yr 11. In Yr 12 I applied again ... I was worried about the quality of my application but quietly confident ... I was another year older, a little bit cooler (kidding), eloquent and mature. Then came the letter for the interview, the interview and finally that one last letter. It looked so harmless in that little envelope ("don't open in without me!" said my best friend). The few months after that were so quick. Finding out about a family, preparing, planning, packing and then leaving. But if I thought that was a whirlwind, it was nothing compared to actually being here, and getting to the point where I can essentially look back on my exchange. To someone applying I would say don't give up ... I almost did ... and now I'm here. ... Basically, I've had an enormous 5 months, and I'm still astounded that I only have 2 weeks left. I'm excited to be getting home though. See you all on July 10th :)

Hi everyone, I'm Stephanie and I've been living in Germany for the last three or so months.

I must say that the beginning of my exchange year wasn't how I expected: I got food poisoning midway through my first 11 ½ hour flight and then spent the stopover and second 12 ½ hour flight sick and not feeling to great. I recovered, though by the time I reached by new town of Hoyerswerda (one hour north east of Dresden), three days after leaving NZ I was completely knackered. My first week was great, my host-sister came from the Black Forest to meet me and spend a few days, and we all went to Tropical Islands, which was amazing, as when I arrived IT WAS FREEZING!!! School was confusing in the beginning and sometimes downright cruel (I have to wake up at 6am on a Monday for School at 7:20am!!). School overall is very different to that in NZ, I have 10 subjects here and that is the minimum, including Math, Bio, Chemistry, Geo, and Computer Studies. Although as my language gets better I am able to understand more (however I don't think I'll ever understand Chem as all the names are completely different). I was lucky enough for there to be a few really helpful girls in my classes that would take me around the school, and especially lucky to have an exchange girl from Alaska to help as well, all of whom have now become good friends. Concerning where I live, it can be difficult sometimes; there are a lot of elderly people who live in the main town, so there aren't too many activity groups for teenagers around. On the upside however is that I joined my local youth group which consists of all the younger people living in my village of Bergen (10 minutes' drive, 20 minutes bike from Hoyerswerda), and with them there have been movie nights, parties and celebrations for birthdays and organising the May-Pole celebration. Dancing in traditional costume around a 30metre wooden decorated pole was definitely an experience. I've also been able to experience the more traditional things that city folks have missed out on, such as, Easter egg painting, where I had a lesson in Hoyerswerda, being in the local newspapers three times, twice were interviews about me experiencing Easter on the other side of the world, learning traditional dances for May-Pole, "Dorf Parties" which have their own uniqueness compared to discos and being a part of my community as we all watch the football games in a barn. With my host-family I am lucky enough that they want to show me their beautiful country and have taken me many times to Dresden, to Cologne and the surrounding smaller areas and Bautzen. They have taken me to the Karl May festival, to many family friends birthday parties (in one, I was a part of a short rendition of Cinderella, myself playing Cinderella) and we have planned much to do over the school holidays. My weekends are usually filled with bike-tours with my host mum, going away with my host parents, walking the dogs and hanging out with my village friends.

In my holidays I have a sailing trip with my host family, a bike tour around Lake Constance in southern Germany where I will ride through Switzerland, Austria and Germany. So I can't wait and I hope to be able to fit in some exciting things with friends from my village and friends from my school and experiencing the traditional holidays to come such as Christmas, fingers crossed for SNOW!

The language was challenging to begin with (I mean they have 16 ways to say "the", I'm bound to get confused) but now I have reached a point where I can speak with people without translating, I can watch movies, which I do quite a lot with my host-family and people from school. I even bought a book from one of my favourite authors to read in German which I can understand, only needing to look up new words. My life here in Germany is quite different to that in NZ, especially the food (a lot of bread, cheese and pork as expected but also a lot of pasta, chocolate and Döner/ Kebabs and cakes) :P and the amount of bike riding I do to make up for the food, but I've made it my life here. I miss some things about NZ: the appreciation of Marmite, chips that aren't capsicum flavoured (seriously that is the main chip flavour) and having pets, which I miss probably the most as I have none here, but there are so many things that I love about Germany and will definitely miss when I go back, the time which between now and then I think will pass all too quickly. I'm trying to make the most of every week as I know it will go so fast.



Tschüssie, Stephanie J

(below, in traditional dress for Maibaum/May-Pole dancing)



My name is Kaitlin and I am currently 4 months into my year in Panama. A lot has happened since I last wrote the biggest being that about a month ago I changed families. When you prepare for an exchange you always talk to people who had to change families; actually, about 95% of the people I talked to had to change families at least once during their exchange. I went into this exchange set on the idea that I was not going to be one of these people as I thought it reflected badly on my exchange. This is definitely not the case. When I was making the decision to move it was because of things like my money going missing and my sister refusing to speak to me in **Spanish but afterwards I realised that it wasn't just these physical things that were wrong. It was as simple as I was not happy. I didn't think this had anything to do with my family that it was just part of being away from New Zealand and homesickness but after I moved families I realised that this was not the case. Sometimes it's just the fact that you do not fit well in the family. My sister** liked to sleep all afternoon and my mama always watched TV or played on her phone and I felt **isolated, this was topped off with my struggle in school with the language as I wasn't getting any practise at home.** This experience taught me that if you are unhappy you have to do something about it.

**My new family is amazing but very different from anything I've experienced before. I now have two older brothers (Denzel-21 and Edaurdo-31 years), a mama and papa that work in the bank and the grandmother (about 80yrs old) who lives in a little flat behind our house and spends a lot of time in our house. This is in comparison with my one younger sister in New Zealand. My 21 year old brother is at home most of the time so I get to talk to him a lot and he is very patient with me so my Spanish has started improving a lot faster. I also get to talk to my mama in the evenings when I'm helping to cook dinner. Living with a family that knows barely any English is actually easier than I anticipated.**

On one of the first weekends with my new family it was Fathers day. We went with some of the extended family to a beach for the day which was about a 30min drive away. We were in a house **just back from the beach front that was owned by one of my Mama's friends. Firstly Denzel, two of the little girls and I went for a walk along the beach and had fun trying to avoid getting too wet from the waves. Then we went back to get into our togs to go for a swim. The water was very nice as there weren't huge strong waves and it was just the right temperature. We played around for awhile in the water doing handstands, talking and playing with a ball. After awhile we went back up to the house and had some meat off the BBQ and yuka (a vegetable that is part of the staple diet here) for lunch. When the others came down onto the beach after lunch us kids took turns being buried in the sand like mummies which was good fun and so hard to get out of which I hadn't anticipated. After playing sand mummies we played a version of dodge ball which consisted of people in a square dodging the ball with lines of people on either side throwing. I wasn't very good at this and managed to get a ball right in the back. On the way home I slept in the bus; exhausted from the day.**

As the time speeds up for me here with only 7 more months left I am definitively going to make the most out of the rest of this year.



I am so happy that I belong to the big AFS family. Let me tell you something about myself.

I'm Yunlin Xie from China! I was an exchange student in Denmark in 2009-2010. After my year in Denmark I went back to China and finished my studies at high school. On 1<sup>st</sup> May this year I came to New Zealand for further study. But for me, I will never forget that I was an exchange student, and to be honest, if it was possible I would like to be an exchange student forever. That's why I want to join in AFS activities again.

When I was in Denmark my life was completely different. Can you imagine a Chinese girl at the age of 16, she wasn't even allowed to go out at night in China. But when she went to Denmark, things completely changed! She saw her friends drinking, smoking and going to parties. I still remember how weird it was when I wore a black long dress, borrowed from my host mother, to the first party of my life. It was an outdoor home party.

My host family is the best family I could have ever had. They were all musicians, I think the reason why AFS chose this family for me is that in my application I wrote that I loved music and that I played drums too. Thank you AFS! You always think about the students. Because of this I had the best year of my life.

I was shy at first, but then my host dad said, "I will teach you the guitar if you want." Of course I wanted! I learned guitar, he even put a guitar in my room for me to practise.

We had a cute dog called Iska. It was a Husky. My host mum and I walked the dog every day for an hour. We talked on the way. She always asked me how was my day. I remember, along the way talking and laughing with her. She was my mother and my friend too. We read children's books together, just to improve my Danish. I miss her so much!

My Danish brother, Paul was 19 when I was 16. He is a musician and we went to the same high school as me. He was very talented, I can remember just sitting and listening to his melody for the whole night. It was the best live piano show I had ever heard. At first we didn't have much in common, but later I went to parties with him and played in the band with him. It was interesting to do things that I had never tried before.

They spoke Danish, I couldn't understand in the beginning, and my English was poor too. Thanks to AFS, they offered me English and Danish courses.

It was so cold in Denmark. I enjoy the weather here in NZ much more. It's always warm in the middle of the day with sunshine and blue sky.

Well. That's pretty much about my story. I hope you have a good time staying in New Zealand. I have to say that I felt homesick and nervous as well. But wherever and whenever you are, don't be afraid if you feel alone sometimes and miss your family. You have got AFS and we will always be with you. One year is short, it will become even shorter when you are having so much fun! So go and explore this land!

---



## Mid Winter Christmas Dinner

We all enjoyed a sumptuous feast of ham and chicken supplemented by wonderful salads (did anyone get that Chick pea salad recipe?) and desserts.

In between the main course and dessert the students had a "Secret Santa" and then the speeches from the 3 students leaving Teresa ,after a year in NZ, returns to Italy, Jonas, after 6 months, to Switzerland and Amaury ,after 6 months, to Belgium. We also had Sophie from Canada speak about what it was like to return to Canada after her exchange in NZ a year ago.



Amaury, Jonas, Teresa doing their farewell speeches



Daniela received the prize for the best costume (with Ray and Mia)



Our hosted students

## Welcome Back to NZ



The following students are arriving (or have already arrived) back:

Mitchell Rump from Sweden on 4 July  
Charlotte Farrimond–Kelly from Italy on 9 July  
Alyce Taylor from Italy on 10 July  
Morgan Gatland from Italy on 10 July  
Dallas Delaney from France on 10 July  
Holly Gillard from Peru on 7 September  
Ari Basevi from Japan on 25 August

Welcome home! We would love to hear the final instalment of your trip....

### ***Reminder:***

***If you are a selected student overseas or going overseas on your program there is an expectation that you will contribute a couple of updates for the newsletter while you are overseas.***

***You can either send them directly to me at [newsletter@afsns.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@afsns.org.nz)***

***or have a member or your family pass your news/updates/photos onto me .***

***Thank you !!***

## 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.

TEAM NORTH SHORE			
President			<a href="mailto:president@afsns.org.nz">president@afsns.org.nz</a>
Vice President	Ray Hu	021 02344195	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@afsns.org.nz">vicepresident@afsns.org.nz</a>
Secretary	Belinda Kitchen	415 4440	<a href="mailto:secretary@afsns.org.nz">secretary@afsns.org.nz</a>
Treasurer	Margaret Rolls	478 9488	<a href="mailto:treasurer@afsns.org.nz">treasurer@afsns.org.nz</a>
Selection	Chelsea Bridgman	021 862923	<a href="mailto:selection@afsns.org.nz">selection@afsns.org.nz</a>
Orientation			<a href="mailto:orientation@afsns.org.nz">orientation@afsns.org.nz</a>
Support	Pamela Cullen	488 0509	<a href="mailto:support@afsns.org.nz">support@afsns.org.nz</a>
Hosting	Su Vincent	09 426 5030	<a href="mailto:hosting@afsns.org.nz">hosting@afsns.org.nz</a>
Newsletter editor	Robyn Wickenden	473 4449	<a href="mailto:newsletter@afsns.org.nz">newsletter@afsns.org.nz</a>
Fundraising			<a href="mailto:fundraising@afsns.org.nz">fundraising@afsns.org.nz</a>
Intensive programme	Su Vincent,	09 426 5030	<a href="mailto:intensive@afsns.org.nz">intensive@afsns.org.nz</a>
<b>NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>YOU.....?</b>	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 1st August 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany	

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