

August 2012

PO BOX
331686
TAKAPUNA
Auckland City

From Wellsford to the Bridge

August 2012 AFS MEETING

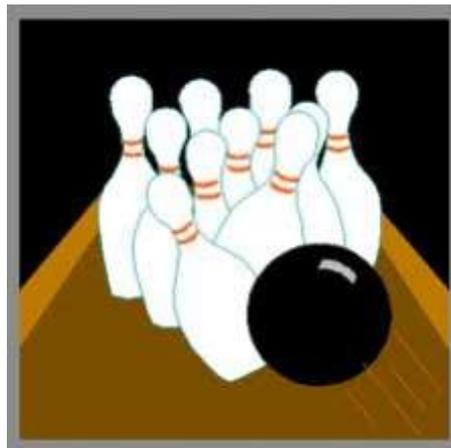
Ten Pin Bowling

Sunday 26 August, 7pm

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WAIRAU PARK 10 PIN BOWLING, Link
Drive (by the Hoyts cinemas)
Glenfield



\$11 for 2 games – bring your student ID

Bring your own snack/drink or you can
purchase food and drink there

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 (14)
have gone to:

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

Raffle

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RUN NORTH SHORE
RAFFLE SALES**

The ticket sales period starts on Monday 3 September and
runs until Monday 19 November – 11 weeks.

President's Report

AFS NS President Position is vacant

Lost Property

A shoe design cake slice was left at the mid-winter Christmas dinner. **If it's yours, please** contact Su on 0942 65030 or at mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz

Dates for Your Diary

Event	August	September	October
Chapter Meeting	26th 10 Pin Bowling	26th To be decided	28th To be decided
Other		16th Selection Day	

What's On

Legends of the Moon Festival
Celebrating the diversity of Auckland, this event brings together a wide variety of cultures with performance, art, sports, food, literature and crafts.
28 September 4-8pm
29 September 3-9pm
New Lynn Community Centre
45 Totara Avenue, New Lynn
FREE

Auckland Wide Selection Day

Sunday September 16

Carey Baptist College, Penrose

Returned students, host parents and sending parents needed to sit on interview panels, interviewing students who are applying to go on exchange.

Easy way to give back to the chapter: no experience necessary, and just for one afternoon!

Please email, call or text Chelsea - c.bridgy@hotmail.com - 021 862 923

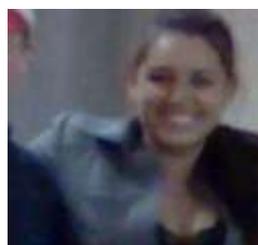


Happy Birthday to Saija on 14 September. We hope you have an awesome New Zealand birthday!

Inbox — Life in NZ



I've been in NZ for 5 month already, and after 5 month you realize, how important it is to discover an other culture, you learn every day during an exchange. You learn everyday because you are all the times with different people, you learn the basic things, like sharing, and you have to adapted your behavior to all the things who are around yourself like people, food,etc...You don't have to be sad when you think to your family, you have only one year, and it goes really fast so you have to enjoy the most you can. For example, the hardest thing for me was to eat all my vegetables because i don't eat any of them in France. I really love NZ so far, this experience will probably change my life. Robinson



Hi my name is Florencia Bello and i am from Bolivia, my time in New Zealand have been great I've been here for almost 5 months and im enjoying. I have a lot of friends and my family is so nice, it was hard at the start because New Zealand is a completely different country, the worst thing was the weather, there is a big difference in school too, because in Bolivia i have 16 subjects and the day starts at 7:45 and finish at 3:45, theres a lot of people in Bolivia that have never seen the sea or been to the beach, because Bolivia is in the middle of South America, the typical food is based in dry meat, but beside that here is so nice.



Kia ora everyone.

I'm Alejandro Chavez, I'm 16 years old and I'm from Chile. I came to New Zealand on april this year to live a 9 months experience with AFS. So I've been here for 3 months and it has been AMAZING.

I'm living in Maungakaramea, near Whangarei, in Northland, with the Mills family. I go to Tauraroa Area School and I'm the first exchange student ever (this term there's another exchange student in the school).

People in New Zealand is very friendly, including mates, teachers and family. They received me as one of them so easily I couldn't believe it.

In New Zealand there is heaps of sports related opportunities. I went to Dunedin because of indoor football, for the Northland Area Schools team.

There are beautiful landscapes wherever you look at. That's one amazing thing about New Zealand. Enjoy your experience, it'd be one of the best (if not THE best) of your life.

Hosted Students 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.

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 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We help you volunteer
Take away the fear
Show you what's out there
For what time you can spare!

There's info and advice
All for no price
We support, screen and match
No, there isn't a catch.

So what's holding you back?
Is it confidence you lack?
What could be more worthwhile
Than picking up the phone to dial:

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 newsletter@afsnz.org.nz or phone Robyn on 473-4449

Inbox

My name is Lily, I'm 16 years old and I am currently halfway into my year long exchange in Argentina. I can safely say that these 5 or 6 months have been the hardest, yet most rewarding few months of my life so far. I have experienced so many different feelings, and have been offered so many strange and amazing opportunities. Argentina is an amazing country, I am so glad that I decided to come here!

I live in the province of San Juan, a small and safe province right near Chile. It is ridiculously hot in the summer, around 45 degrees, and super cold in winter. Right now we're at about 2 degrees, so pretty extreme in comparison to the mild Auckland weather! Life here is great, very social. I have an amazing group of friends, and great classmates who I get along really well with. I attend a small catholic school, and I love it! School is very different here, the relationships between students and teachers are far more relaxed, with some teachers it's a first name basis! A lot more boisterous too, students and teachers regularly get into heated arguments that can last an entire class. We start school at 7 in the morning, and finish at 1 in the afternoon. I have 10 classes per day that run for 40 minutes each. Here substitute teachers don't exist, so if a teacher is sick or can't make it to a class we have free time, or can just head home! They are really big on their public holidays here too. After school, everyone heads home for lunch, which is the biggest and most important meal of the day. Afterwards, we all go and sleep 'siesta', a small afternoon nap. I seriously don't know how I lived without it! Afterwards everyone goes back to their normal things, and then returns home for dinner at about 10 o'clock at night. On the weekends I go out dancing with my friends, sleep, eat 'asado' (amazing Argentine barbecue), watch football games on TV, eat some more and see more friends. Life is good!

One of the most difficult things I have faced here is the language barrier. I came to Argentina without knowing any Spanish at all. In New Zealand I was a really extroverted person and I loved to talk, when I first arrived it was virtually impossible for me to express myself. It was so frustrating at times, not being able to even ask basic questions and have conversations with people. It made forming relationships quite difficult, but luckily here in Argentina they are very open and welcoming as people, so it wasn't too hard to find my place. My Spanish now has improved so much! I am able to converse with my friends, buy things from shops, watch TV and actually understand what's going on around me! My Spanish is not perfect, but we're getting there.

I am so happy where I am and who I am with, and I am so thankful to have been given this amazing opportunity. Although I have had my fair share of difficulties, I wouldn't take any of it back. I have seen so many different and exciting things, and I can't wait for what's in store! I am looking forward to the next few months so much, truly the experience of a lifetime.

Hi

My name is Janelle and I spent my AFS year in Quebec, Canada (2009-2010). It was not all wonderful. There were times when I just wanted to go home, but then there were many more amazing times when I thought how lucky I was to have this experience.

Maybe you are wondering why I am writing this letter now when I have been home for two years. Well, that's because I have had so many opportunities after my AFS year that I want to share them with you!

My time in Canada was truly an experience of a life time. I got to do so many wonderful things that I never imagined I would, but most importantly I met some very special people, including the best host family ever!!! They were great. They treated me as their own child, allowed me the space to do normal teenage things, but also gave me the encouragement, love and support to make it through. I did change host families and having their wonderful support after a difficult five months with my first family was exactly what I needed. In my host family I have a younger brother Clement (now 12 and nearly as tall as me) and a 7 year old sister Daphne. During my exchange I was also fortunate enough to make three of the best friends in the world - Camila from Dominican Republic, Ellen from Norway, and Mariangel from Venezuela.

My family in New Zealand has also hosted two AFS students, Sarah-Nina and Sophie, both from Canada. Sarah stayed with us from January 2009 to January 2010, to help get me prepared before I left in August 2009 for my exchange. We hosted Sophie after I met her in Canada. About two weeks before I was due to leave Canada, we realised that Sophie still did not have a host family, so we decided to have her in a first family situation so she would be able to come to New Zealand and after eleven months she was still with us!

After returning from my AFS exchange, my friends and I decided that we needed to meet up again. We decided **to go to Camila's home in the Caribbean for Easter 2011. This is something I would have never thought possible** if it were not for AFS. We spent two weeks there together, having a blast, lying on the beach, swimming in the **crystal clear water, and enjoying each other's company. I also met Camila's family, one of the nicest families in** the world, who took us three girls into their house and treated us like we were their own children. I got to see the best of the Dominican Republic and some of the not so good like the poverty and crime, and young children carrying around guns.

SO this has all lead me to where I am now and why I am writing this letter. Currently I am sitting in my host father's computer chair on my last morning in Quebec after an amazing six week holiday in Canada. After my AFS year I realised I just had to go back to Canada. So I worked hard, saved my money and finally returned two years after I left. I have had the best six weeks. I got to spend two weeks in Quebec City with Sarah. We went to Valcartie which is a water theme park with huge slides, wave pools and pirate ships (Waiwera is nothing in comparison). We also went to the aquarium, drove around a nearby island visiting all the local shops, trying lots of food and sampling lots of wine, visited the National Museum of Civilisation, and I finally got to do the horse and carriage ride around Quebec City. It was great to see Sarah again, to spend time with her, and catch up on the two years that we have been apart. I then spent the rest of the time with my host family, and also time with Sophie who lives only ten minutes away. My time with my host family was not spent visiting different sites. It was **spent together enjoying each other's company and just relaxing. I also had the opportunity to visit Sophie's** holiday home and meet her grandparents, great grandfather, aunties and uncles, and lots of her cousins. I have had an amazing time again in Canada. I do not really want to leave, but I am not going home yet. I still have **some more adventures to come...**

Today I am not leaving to go home. I am on my way to London to meet Camila, Ellen and Mariangel and we are going to travel around Europe together. We will visit London, Paris, Barcelona, Rome, Florence, Venice, Berlin as well as going to Denmark and Norway. I am so excited. I cannot wait to see everyone again after just over a year. It will certainly be a big adventure. My first time in Europe with three of my best friends in the world! And after my month of travels, I will head back to Spain where I will live for three months with a host family of six children and I will be their English teacher. And after that, why go home when I can spend Christmas and New Year in Norway with Ellen and her family!

My trip would not have happened if it were not for AFS. Without my AFS experience, I would never have had the courage to travel around the world at such a young age. And I would have never thought it possible to spend six months away from home. But what AFS teaches you is that you can do it, and it gives you the encouragement and support to go out and chase your dreams.

Well, I should go and finish packing my suitcase, and hopefully this time it will be under 20kg!.

Bye

Janelle



Thank you so much AFS North Shore and AFS New Zealand for all the hard work and organisation you put in to creating the JENESYS program. Travelling to Japan was the time of my life and I couldn't believe how organised and punctual everything was for me in Japan. Sorting accommodation, contacting volunteers, homestays, and schools would be a huge task and I felt so privileged to have all this organising done for me prior to my trip. I am so glad and thankful that I had such a trustful and unselfish organisation like AFS North Shore (New Zealand) to make this trip unforgettable. Being in Japan as a part of the JENESYS program opened my eyes to a lot of new things. It completely changed my outlook on different cultures, people, and also helped me to get to know myself more through meeting new people, trying new things and being in a country with so much to do like Japan. The Highlight of the trip by far was being a home stay and going to school in Nagoya. All the people I met at school were so obliging and full of energy. Saying goodbye to school life and my home stay family was heartbreaking but makes me now want to travel back to Japan even more. Thanks again AFS for everything.

From Lochy Crane!

Im Ari Basevi and im on a five month exchange programme in japan.

I have been in japan so far for just over four months and i have come across many cultural shocks and experienced a really different way of living. The staple diet in japan is rice, which saw me having really bad stomach aches during my first month. I have gradually gotten used to eating roce twice or more a day and now i often ask for refills as i guess it tastes pretty nice now haha.

I have five host families, it isnt too bad having allot of host families as ive been able to experience quite allot and meet allot of new people, but its a little hard leaving a family when your getting along with them and then have to adapt to a different family. Only my last family, my current family, has children, well theyre actually my host parents grandchildren, but im like there older brother. For the kids it took them a couple of days to get used to a 195cm tall foriegn person living in thier house.

At school on the first day everyone stared at me, as im in a small city/town in the country side, there isnt that many foriegners around. So it was quite hard for all my time at school to walk around not having people screaming out my name or stop and look at me. In a japanese classroom when a teacher asks a question no one will put up there hand to answer, so the teacher eventually has to pick a person from the roll to answer the question which is different from nz.

My last day of school was pretty noce as they all signed my shirt, and they gave me a dvd which they said had a special message from them for me to watch back in nz. Unfortunately when i found it in my bag that night i forgot what they had told me and only remembered after i watched it :/ the video made me cry!

Im on summer vacation at the moment which is so hot!!! It never gets below 30 degrees and most days its like 35 :O

Only three weeks till i get back to nz, i have had a pretty good time in japan. I definetly feel different from how i did when i first came to japan, i wonder how people at home will react to me! Haha.

Thanks Ari

Hosting

No sooner have they arrived than we have to say farewell to our IP students, Nicolas from France, Virginia and Natasha from Italy and Rocio and Paula from Spain. **We're sorry** that it rained so much during your visit but we hope you enjoyed your time here and will return one day soon to see us again. Travel safely home.

Profiles for the next group of six-month and year-long students due at the end of January are going up on the website http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student_profiles/

If you are interested in hosting a student next year, please have a look online and contact me at hosting@afsns.org.nz or on 0942 65030 if you would like further information.

Many thanks, Su.

Raffle

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO RUN NORTH SHORE RAFFLE SALES—great prizes, only 11 weeks commitment, funds go towards running the Chapter (remember that wonderful mid winter dinner...)

AFS
Intercultural Programmes
New Zealand
Ara hōrenga Tatai o AFS

Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

\$2 TICKETS

Raffle closes: 19th November 2012
Raffle draw: Sun, 3rd December, 2012, at Hamilton Police Station.
Prize winners determined by random number generation.

Results published: In Sunday Star-Times, 9th December, 2012, and on: www.afs.org.nz. In the event of cancellation, this will be published in the Sunday Star Times on 9th December, 2012, and all money will be refunded.

Organiser: Cliff Boyd, 59 Gibson Rd, Hamilton

Net proceeds will be used for AFS Intercultural Programmes work and will be divided among the chapters and the AFS Trust as AFS determines.

Limited to 27,000 tickets, in books of ten tickets, numbered from 10,001 to 37,000.

All prize winners will be contacted by phone where possible. Prizes must be claimed from the organiser by 3rd March, 2013. Prizes cannot be converted to cash.

By licence issued under Section 37 of the Gambling Act 2003

1st Prize
\$10,000
TRAVEL
PACKAGE
Supplied by Orbit Travel

2nd Prize
iPad2 with WiFi/3G
RRP \$779
Supplied by
PB Technologies Ltd
Auckland

3rd-5th
Prizes
\$100Z
gift cards

Orbit
Corporate Travel
part of the Group of Travel agencies

QANTAS

Licence No: LT2060997
Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 10095, Wellington, Ph: 0800 257 887

Around the World Chapter Night — photos



Momoko (Japan) assists with origami

Naomi & Lara showcase Switzerland



Veronica and Saija from Finland



Christian (Brazil) & Florencia (Bolivia)



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

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 5th September 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany	

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

AFS operates throughout New Zealand within local AFS groups (or AFS Chapters.) These AFS Communities (Chapters) perform a diverse range of tasks, vital to the ultimate goal of sending New Zealanders overseas and hosting foreign participants here in NZ. We strive to match voluntary opportunities to our volunteers' skills and interests. Any contribution big or small, long term or short is much appreciated!

Here are a few core AFS Community functions:

- Providing leadership of the team, mentoring, and setting strategic direction, managing finances and communication both within the AFS community, with National Office, and with external stakeholders
- Interviewing and selecting potential AFS participants
- Helping New Zealand AFS participants prepare for their overseas experience by providing them with intercultural skills and knowledge
- Promoting AFS in your community in order to attract families to host overseas students and encourage New Zealand participants to go on their exchange with AFS
- Providing support to New Zealand families during the exchange experience and mentoring and providing support for students hosted in NZ
- Participate in AFS events and camps
- Edit your local AFS newsletter or publications
- Plan AFS events or help fundraising, social activities

These are just a few of the many ways you can get involved and we welcome new ideas and innovation.