



AFS North Shore Newsletter

September 2012

PO BOX
331686
TAKAPUNA
Auckland City

From Wellsford to the Bridge

September 2012 AFS MEETING

Sunday 23 September, 7pm

Inside this issue:

President's Report	2
Dates for your Diary	2
Life in NZ	3
Community Service	4
New Selected Students	4
Inbox	5
Hosting	6
Raffle	8
Team North Shore	9
Notices	9

Special Points of Interest:

North Shore is currently hosting 12 students from: Chile, Japan, Canada, France, Finland, Bolivia, & Brazil.

And our 2012 students (14) have gone to:

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

At MEGAZONE – WAIRAU

3 Goldfield Lane
(off Porana Rd, off Wairau Rd)

\$15 per person

Step into a futuristic indoor labyrinth filled with smoke, music and lighting effects. Clipping a High-Tech Phasor prepare yourself for an intense battle of skill and strategy. This is the ultimate fantasy. Caught in the middle of a space-age laser battle, you'll test your courage, stealth, cunning, and stamina by tagging enemy bases, de-energising your opponents and finding your way through the vast maze while watching out for the mines. We will have a room booked for non-players and where bags can be left.

Remember to wear closed-in shoes (no bare feet, jandals or sandals)

Hosting Coordinator to work with Su

It would be really great to have someone to work alongside me in the Hosting area. This is a fun, rewarding role which doesn't take a lot of time. If you would like more information, please contact Su on 09426 5030 or at hosting@afsns.org.nz Thanks Su

President's Report

Hi, my name is Robyn Wickenden and I will tell you about my journey with AFS....

In May 2010, my daughter asked me to go with her to an information night about AFS ... this led to us hosting an Intensive Programme student, Miriam, from Spain from July to September that year. So we started attending the monthly Chapter meetings. My daughter, Kaitlin, then applied to go on an AFS exchange—she left in February this year for a year long exchange to Panama. We are hosting Daniela from Chile for the year Kaitlin is away. At the AGM this year, I volunteered to take on the newsletter and joined the committee. Then slowly as the people began to feel they had done their time with AFS or life took them in a new direction, more roles needed to be covered and more things needed to be done by the dwindling committee. This has resulted in me finally accepting that I was going to be taking on the role of President for the North Shore Chapter.

I think my story goes to show, that your kids may be going on an experience of a lifetime, but you as the parent may also have your own experience of a lifetime!

I am pleased to say our plea for volunteers has resulted in some parents and returnees coming forward. We however can still do with more help specifically someone to take over the newsletter role and someone in Hosting. My thanks to these volunteers for taking this first step in coming forward. I am looking forward to working with you and the existing members of committee over the rest of the year.

Robyn



Robyn and Daniela at ARA Botanical Gardens

Dates for Your Diary

Event	September	October	November
Chapter Meeting	23rd Laser Force	28th Sunnynook —Halloween	25th Sunnynook
Other		Marae Visit 19-22 October	16-18th End of Stay Camp—Compulsory!

What's On

Warkworth Kowhai Festival Huge Day
Out 6 October 2012

Inbox — Life in NZ



Hi, I am Daniela from Chile. Those seven months in New Zealand have been awesome, I have made friends from everywhere in the world, I have improved my English and grown up as a person. New Zealand and its people keep surprising me every day, their kindness and cheerfulness amaze me and the way New Zealand works is incredible for me. This is a wonderful country and I feel that I still have so much left to do before I leave. I have had so

much fun, and I am so grateful with my amazing host family which takes me to **different places like Otorohanga, Rotorua, Whitianga, Taupo... I have seen so much** and this just makes me want to see more of New Zealand and meet more people. I have also got used to school in here and I like it a lot! It is very different from my school in Chile, where we do not have to change classrooms but we cannot choose our subjects. In the beginning I was the only Chilean at my school, but now there are other three Chileans and sometimes is difficult to keep away from them or to talk in English with them, but I still have my other friends from Germany, Czech Republic, Luxembourg and Malaysia and I still prefer to be with them.

I am enjoying New Zealand and looking forward to the South Island trip!



I have been in New Zealand for seven months and the time has gone **by so fast, I can't believe it. I just came?! My time here has been** awesome! I think that I have seen most of New Zealand now (the main places in South Island; Queenstown, Wanaka, Abel Tasman, **Christchurch, Milford Sound, Fran Josef... and in North Island; Cape** Reinga, the famous Kauri forest, Bay of Islands, Wellington, Rotorua, **Taupo, Whangarei...).** I really love NZ. **It's a beautiful country and I don't want to leave!** I'm really grateful to my host family for taking me on many trips and for showing and sharing the NZ's culture. My school has been quite relaxed compared to the Finnish school system. I'm doing Spanish, outdoor education, English, photography and maths. **The favourite subject is outdoor education. It's so much fun! I can** understand why all exchange students have recommended it. I like that

I have had a great opportunity to play and try different sports at school **and get to know more new kiwi teens and stay fit too. I'm the only exchange student at** my school now (Albany Senior High School) since Amaury left because of this I think it has helped me to meet and become friends with a lot of people at school. So far my favourite experiences have been the south island trip with all the exchange students and doing the extreme activities and going to Fiji with my host family. I will try to make the most of my year as there is so little time left.

I hope everyone enjoys their stay and makes the most of it!

Veronica

Hosted Students Community Service

Community Service is part of your AFS exchange in NZ . Here are some more opportunities for community service:

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. See the Facebook posting on AFS North Shore page. Please contact Su by emailing mark.vincent@xtra.co.nz or phone 09 426 5030

Sunday 25th November is the Auckland Annual Santa Parade—

The parade consists of many themed floats with the climax being the float with Santa on; children and the "young at heart" line the streets for this celebration, a must event for anyone who believes in Santa! Ask your host parents/siblings about this.

In order to sign up you will need to complete the form you were emailed and email back to the ronelle@misery.com

If you're not sure about anything talk to your host parents or your support coordinator

Kizuna Project 2012—Selected Students

Congratulations to Freya Schaumkel and Lixing Wei who have been selected to take part in the KIZUNA Project 2012. This is a 2 week long, fully funded scholarship to Japan departing 2nd December.

In total there will be 58 students and 2 teachers from across NZ taking part.

Last Chapter meeting photos — 10 Pin Bowling





Happy Birthday to Christian on 10 October. We hope you have an awesome New Zealand birthday!

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.

Hosting

It would be really great to have someone to work alongside me in the Hosting area. This is a fun, rewarding role **which doesn't take a lot of time**. If you would like more information, please contact Su on 09426 5030 or at hosting@afsns.org.nz Thanks J

If you are interested in hosting a student next year, new profiles are going up on the AFS website on a daily basis so have a look at http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student_profiles/ and please contact me if you would like further information: hosting@afsns.org.nz

Next year students will be coming for 5 months (Jan - June) or 10 months only (Jan - early Dec). Here are some of the students requiring host families:



Hannah, Greenland, 16, Danish speaking, 10 month exchange

Hannah is a caring, funny and respectful girl who is full of life. She likes meeting new people and visiting new places and as such is very excited to be going on exchange. She loves animals and has a dog, 3 cats, 2 finch and many hamsters. In the future she would like to work with animals. Hannah likes art and in particular drawing and also likes to go swimming and to be in the outdoors.



Jonas, 16, Switzerland, German speaking, 10 month exchange

Jonas is an active teenager who likes to keep busy. He likes being outdoors and started horse riding at the age of 6 and has performed in competitions as well as gone on mountain trails. He enjoys fly fishing which he has been doing for the last 2 years. In the winter he likes to go snowboarding. He also enjoys music and plays the electric guitar in a band and has recently starting learning how to play the flamenco guitar. He has recently taken up Kung Fu and has been playing soccer since he was 10.



Tabea, 17, Germany, 10 month exchange

Tabea is a well-liked and hardworking teenager. She works hard at school to get good grades and is active outside of school with her sports. In particular she loves volleyball and practices most days. Tabea also likes the arts and music and enjoys partaking in both. She also loves being outdoors, spending time with nature and swimming. She hopes to be able to continue with volleyball in the future as she is passionate about this sport.



Cullen, 16, USA, 5 month exchange

Cullen is the younger brother in his family and is described as an easy going and friendly person, yet mature and works hard at school. His passion is soccer which he has been playing since he was 5 years old. To complement his soccer he goes to the gym once a week. **The foreign exchange students at Cullen's school sparked his interest to go on exchange and Cullen is excited to be going on an adventure to another country.**



Caroline, 17, Canada, French speaking, 10 month exchange

Caroline describes herself as outgoing, generous and hardworking. She has many interests including fashion, dance, photography and the outdoors. She is in an intensive dance class at school. She also has a part time job working at a restaurant. Caroline loves travelling and loves discovering new places, cultures and people.



Frida, 17, Sweden, 10 month exchange

Frida is a motivated, generous and friendly girl. She is passionate about football and has played since she was 6 years old. During her summer breaks she likes to hang out with her family at their country house where they go sailing, swimming and water skiing. In the winter she enjoys skiing and ice skating.



Snorre, 17, Norway, 10 month exchange

Snorre is an avid musician who plays the piano and trumpet in his school orchestra and the bass guitar in his band. His other major interest is aeroplanes and in the future he would like to work either as a pilot or an air traffic controller. During the winter he likes to go skiing and enjoys doing slalom. Snorre is described by his friends and family as a happy, patient and relaxed individual. He is social and is looking forward to discovering a new culture with new people.



Nadine, 17, Finland, 10 month exchange

Nadine is a happy, cheerful and kind person who loves to laugh. She is very social and likes meeting new people. She is very fond of sports and enjoys playing tennis and handball in her leisure time. She has been thinking about doing an exchange since her brother returned from an exchange in the USA and explained what a life changing experience it is to live in another country.



Sebastian, 16, Denmark, 10 month exchange

Sebastian is an active individual who is described as open minded and happy. He loves swimming **and has participated in the Danish Championships numerous times. Sebastian's other interests** include cooking, cycling and being outdoors in nature. Sebastian is looking forward to his exchange and is excited to learn about a new culture and to make new friends.



Ana, 17, Argentina, 5 month exchange

Ana comes from deep in the south of Argentina. She describes herself as open minded, living in the moment and always open to trying new things. Ana has a range of different interests from dancing where she studies classical, contemporary and modern dance to skiing in the winter. She loves being in the outdoors and going for mountain walks or camping. In the future she would love to study something in humanities or something to do with the environment.



Bruna, 16, Brazil, Portuguese speaking, 5 month exchange

Bruna loves to go out with friends and family. This is why she has applied to go on exchange, and she specifically chose New Zealand as her cousin came here and had an amazing experience. Bruna likes to keep fit and goes to the gym and for runs on a regular basis. On her exchange she hopes to meet many people, see new places and discover a new whole new culture.



Luis, 16, Uruguay, Spanish speaking, 5 month exchange

Luis applied to go on exchange after hearing so many people exclaiming how much they had enjoyed their exchange year. He is open to any and all new experiences and is excited to learn about a new culture and a new way of life. Luis loves playing rugby and last year was the captain of his team. He also enjoys playing soccer, camping and the outdoors in general. In the future Luis would like to be an engineer.



Tomoko, 16, Japan, 10 month exchange

Tomoko is a hardworking and considerate teenager. She enjoys playing tennis and is vice-captain of her team. Tomoko likes to cook and hopes to be able to share her recipes with her host family as well as learn some new recipes. She has heard about the natural beauty of New Zealand and hopes to be able to do many outdoor activities whilst on her exchange.

Raffle tickets on sale now!!!!!! FIRST PRIZE \$10,000 Travel

If all numbered tickets are sold, you have 1/27,000 chance of winning first prize—that is much better odds than Lotto or Big Wednesday!

Many of our past members who have hosted students would probably like to be able to travel to visit their hosted son or daughter.

Those of you who are returnees—wouldn't you love to be able to go back and visit your host country. If you won the first prize you would be able to head away and make that visit.

The travel has to be booked by the end of March 2013 and has to be taken before the end of 2013.

If this is you, please send me an email or phone and I can post a ticket or book out to you. \$2 a ticket or \$20 for a book. Internet banking makes this so easy to purchase and there is no excuse!
Robyn

AFS
Intercultural Programmes
New Zealand
Ngā Hōwhiriwhiri Tūtahi o AFS

Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

\$2 TICKETS

Raffle closes: 19th November 2012
Raffle drawn: 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 30th 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
201219 The Avenue, Mt Wellington

QANTAS

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Department of Internal Affairs
PO Box 10009, Wellington, Ph: 0800 257 887

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.

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 10th October 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany	

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

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