



# AFS NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

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**November 2013**

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## Inside this Issue:

President's Report	Page 2
Inbox	Page 3
Hosting	Page 4
Dates for your Diary	Page 5
What's On	Page 5
Subscriptions	Page 6
Team North Shore	Page 7



## **December Chapter Meeting**

Selected, hosted, returnees & families  
Sunday 1 December, 7pm

At North Shore  
Rowing Club

Northcote Rd Extension (off Taharoto Rd), Lake Pupuke  
End of year family picnic—bring your  
own picnic or takeaways

□ Farewell speeches from John, Nao,  
Snorre, Luca & Sebastian

□ Presentations to host families

□ Farewell selected students leaving  
in January 2014

## President's Report

We had the pleasure of hosting 2 secondary school English teachers from Thailand for 3 weeks. They were here on the AFS educators programme to gain an insight into NZ schools and our teaching methods here. They are involved in AFS as volunteers at their schools which host students—they have not been on an exchange themselves, so this was their taste of what it is like to be an exchange student. They gathered many ideas to take back with them to Thailand about different teaching methods, classroom discipline and ways to assist a hosted student. From our side we really enjoyed showing them around Auckland, having a couple of Thai meals cooked for us and the evening conversations.

Our focus over the next month is on hosting for 2014. So far we only have one semester student placed in our Chapter. There are still 75 unplaced students who want to come to NZ. Please help get the message out for finding homes for these students.

Robyn





My name is Bryar Renshaw, I'm 16 years old and I've been living in Tokyo, Japan, for roughly 7 months. I attend Toyo Eiwa Junior and Senior Girls High School in a Tokyo district called Roppongi, where during my stay I've made more friends than I could possibly count.

In my time here I've had opportunities to do and see many amazing things. For example, with my school I've been on a camp outside of Tokyo, seen a traditional Japanese performance called Kabuki, and participated in the Ball Sports

Festival, Sports Festival and Culture Festival of my school. I've done a lot of sightseeing with my Host Families (two short term families and the one I'm with now for the rest of my exchange) from hiking in the Tateshina mountain area to looking out over Tokyo from the top of the Sky Tree. I've also visited a number of Shrines and Temples, which are beautiful, peaceful places brimming with traditional culture. They are also the location of Summer Festivals, which will be some of my best memories of this year.

When I first arrived here in March it was spring, the air was cool and the streets were lined with beautiful blooming Cherry Blossom trees. I survived through an unusually hot summer that lasted from June to October and reached a high of 39°C in Tokyo during August; and now we're entering autumn. The temperature is cooling, the air smells of these sweet flowers that bloom at this time of year and it's started getting dark at 5.30pm (the time I leave school after club activities). Soon winter will be upon us, and hopefully I'll see the first White Christmas of my life!

To elaborate on the aforementioned "Club Activities", I've joined the Kendo club at my school. Kendo is the traditional Japanese martial art of sword fighting. It might be difficult and strict, but it's also fun and the traditional culture involved is very interesting. The only drawback is that all the stomping around gives me incredibly sore feet, but even that (and insanely crowded trains) I consider as all part of the good experience.

From now on I've got lots of things to look forward to, including a short term exchange to a rural area at the end of November and a test to measure how much my Japanese had improved in December, so as the Japanese often say; "I'll do my best!"

Kind regards and good luck to everyone on exchanges or leaving soon,  
Bryar.



## Hosting

If you are interested in hosting a student, Please review the profiles on the AFS New Zealand website at

[http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student\\_profiles/](http://www.afs.org.nz/Host/Student_profiles/)

And please contact: [hosting@afsnz.org.nz](mailto:hosting@afsnz.org.nz) for more information.

**Keeping in the spirit of our volunteer organisation, our host families are volunteers and do not get paid. The numerous rewards of hosting cannot be quantified in monetary terms. Some of the reasons why people host include:**

- ⇒ to directly benefit their family through increased knowledge, understanding and communication.to extend their family to include a son or daughter they never had.
- ⇒ to provide them with worldwide networks and allows them to experience the increased warmth and vibrancy of an extended family.
- ⇒ to allow them to experience New Zealand and its culture from a different perspective.
- ⇒ to make a positive and real contribution towards creating a more just and peaceful world through cultural understanding.
- ⇒ to learn about customs, ideas and values of another culture.
- ⇒ to develop lifelong bonds and friendships.



## Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Venue
Chapter Meeting	1 December 7-9pm	North Shore Rowing Club
Hosted Students Arrive	28 January 2014	Auckland Airport!
AFS North Shore AGM	16 February 2014 7pm	Sunny nook Community Centre

## What's On

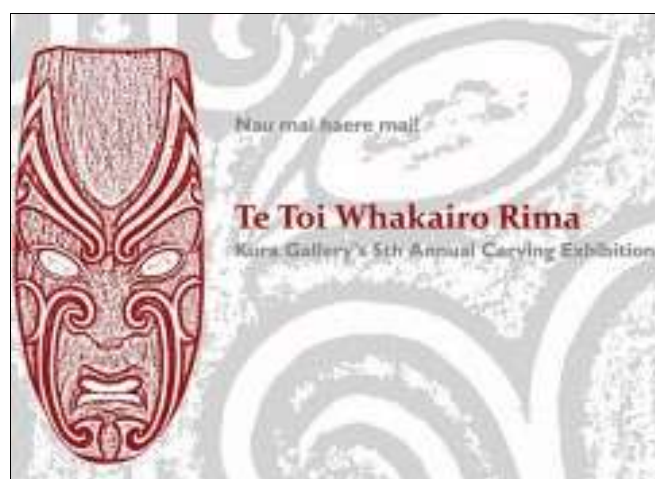
### SCULPTURE IN THE GARDENS Auckland Botanic Gardens 9 November 2013–16 February 2014



Sculpture in the Gardens is a free exhibition of 23 large scale sculptures by top New Zealand artists on a 2km garden trail through the spectacular Auckland Botanic Gardens - just 20 minutes from the CBD.

There are loads of activities happening at the Gardens- Enjoy free live music from 2pm on Sundays.

Grab a coffee or bite to eat Cafe Miko or bring a picnic and have lunch in your favourite part of the Gardens.



An exhibition of outstanding new works by Maori carvers from across Aotearoa.

This is Kura Gallery's 5th Annual Carving Exhibition showcasing Te Toi Whakairo - The Art of Carving. Including works by Gordon Toi, Warren McGrath, Jack Brooking, Will Ngakuru, Ross Gregory, Dallas Crombie and many more...

The exhibition opening will be on 11 October at 5pm, with the exhibition on show until 17 November.

Venue: Kura Gallery, PWC Tower, 188 Quay Street, Downtown Auckland

Entry: Free

## Chapter Subscriptions

Subscriptions (for year ending 31/12/13) 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.

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.

## October Chapter Meeting Photos



Thangthai & Jet, the teachers from Thailand

Fear Factor ... hosted and selected students



## TEAM NORTH SHORE

President	Robyn Wickenden	473 4449	<a href="mailto:president@afsns.org.nz">president@afsns.org.nz</a>
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Fundraising			<a href="mailto:fundraising@afsns.org.nz">fundraising@afsns.org.nz</a>
General Committee	Chelsea Bridgman Janelle Rolls Max Renshaw-Fox Heather Hodgson Amy Trigg	Chelsea <a href="mailto:c.bridgy@hotmail.com">c.bridgy@hotmail.com</a> Janelle <a href="mailto:janelle.r@windowslive.com">janelle.r@windowslive.com</a> Max <a href="mailto:maxrenshawfox@gmail.com">maxrenshawfox@gmail.com</a> Heather <a href="mailto:heather_adam@vodafone.co.nz">heather_adam@vodafone.co.nz</a> Amy <a href="mailto:kiwi2sweden@gmail.com">kiwi2sweden@gmail.com</a>	
<b>NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>YOU.....?</b>	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: AGM 16 Feb 2014 Sunnynook Community Centre	