



AFS NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

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March 2013

April 2013 AFS Meeting

Sunday 14th April 7pm

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Venue: Sunnynook Community Centre

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 and 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, 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 Germany, Argentina, Panama and Brazil.

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

President's Report

Kia Ora,

Our students that arrived at the end of January have now been here for 6 weeks. I hope you all are settling in well to school and your new families. Make the most of every day as the time will pass so quickly you will wonder where the year went! For the students that have just left, the same sentiment applies for your year away from NZ.

I want to say a big 'thank you' to the hosting families and the wonderful team of volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the Chapter.

For those who don't know me, 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 spent 2012 in Panama and has now returned. We also hosted Daniela from Chile last year. At the AGM in 2012, 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 resulted in me finally accepting that I was going to be taking on the role of President for the North Shore Chapter in September 2012. I have decided to continue in this role again in 2013.

I think my story goes to show, that your kids may be going on an experience of a lifetime, but you, as the parent, also can contribute to AFS.

I am pleased to say my plea for volunteers at the AGM has resulted in some parents and returnees coming forward. We however desperately need someone to take on the Hosting role as Su Vincent has had to stand down due to health reasons. My thanks go 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 year. We have many exciting activities planned for 2013 and hope hosted, selected, returnee students and families all get involved in some capacity.

Robyn

Welcome to our new students



ARGENTINA

Bianca
(Long Bay College)
Beatriz
(Rangitoto College)



GERMANY

Felix
(Whangaparaoa College)



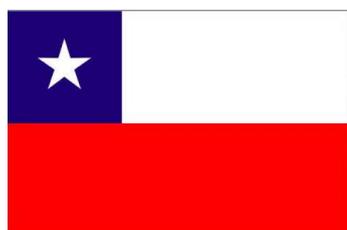
BRAZIL

Luca
(Glenfield College)



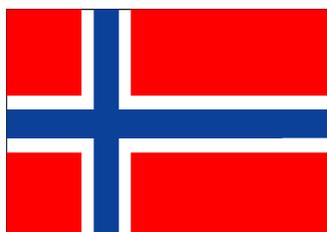
JAPAN

Nao
(Longbay College)



CHILE

Sebastian
(Takapuna Grammar)



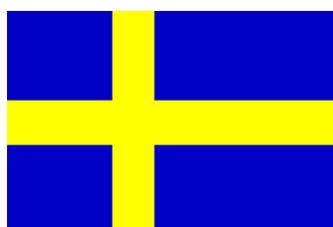
NORWAY

Snorre
(Rosmini College)



FRANCE

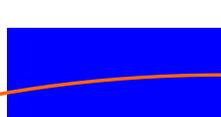
Victoire
(Whangaparaoa College)



SWEDEN

John
(Rangitoto College)

Welcome home to our returnees



Stephanie (Germany)
Aaron (Chile)
Lily (Argentina)
Kaitlin (Panama)

Gwyneth (Costa Rica)
Cindy (Argentina)
Monica (Brazil)



Inbox

Hey everyone!

Well I'm close to the 6 month mark here in Holland and time has flown so fast! I feel like it was only last week that I stepped off the plane onto Dutch soil. Looking back on the last 6 months I've realised that not only have they been the hardest months of my life, but without a doubt also the best months of my life. I'm beginning to slip into the culture and be a part of it. I now feel Dutch, and I have no excuse for saying *ik spreek geen Nederlands* (I don't speak Dutch). Because I do. Of course it's forever a work in progress but I know enough to communicate reasonably well. My status has been updated from clueless foreigner to 'an understood foreigner with an extremely mockable accent.



I have now lived in my new town Oss for 4 months now. It's a small town of about 60,000 people between Nijmegen and Den Bosch. I go to school here and it's worlds away from my old school in Auckland, NZ. I came from a private all girls catholic school (yes with uniforms, ankle length skirts and all), to a public mixed high school (not so strict), where my peers can't even imagine life with uniforms. The school is run like a university, where you can leave school between classes and you have a schedule. For example i only have one hour on a Monday. I start at 10.30 and finish at 11.30. But on a Thursday i start at 8.25 and have then a 3 hour wait till my next classes and finish at 4.15. School doesn't have a set time every day. I also go to school by bike which is a change from my car but also surprisingly a change I like.

I really love my new school and they recently took 16 busloads of us for a free skiing and snowboarding day in Germany! It was soo cool! I went back to my old town in Holland this weekend for the famous 'carnival festival' it was great to see all my friends again and their families. One of my friends mums even attempted to buy me marmite in the supermarket just because she knew i was coming ^_^ (wasn't the real stuff but still so nice of her). The whole town was wearing crazy outfits in the freezing cold weather. It was quite a sight, you had to see it to believe it! So we too put on crazy outfits and joined in the carnival spirit. It's great that i have friends in two towns in Holland because now weekends are never boring!

I was also lucky enough to be taken up to the Arctic 2 weeks ago by my host family. We drove with the car through Germany, Denmark, all the way through Sweden and then up into Northern Finland. It was quite an experience and I'll never forget it! I'm 24,000km away from home. The coldest that it got was minus 32 degrees. The air was so dry that it doesn't feel that cold. I would say minus 3 felt colder cause of the moisture in the air. Me and my host sister got snowboard passes and had two really good days of snowboarding there, although the second day wasn't so pleasant as there was too much snow on the mountain to snowboard! I also got to meet sled dog teams and huskies and wolves as well as an arctic fox. We took a sleigh ride through the arctic tundra just as the sunset went down and it was so beautiful! We also got to do ice karting which was super awesome! And another really great highlight was seeing the ice caves and reindeers. We even managed to stop the car in time to avoid the wild baby reindeers on the road, they were super cute J I have a bit of a hobby for taking photos so you can see some of them here <http://sieskastravels.tumblr.com> .



Dates for Your Diary

Event	Date	Venue
Round the Bays	March 10th	Glover Park site number GF1– BBQ
Gateway Camp– Compulsory for hosted students	March 16-17	Long Bay MERC
Public Information Evening	March 26th 7.15 pm	Epsom Girls Grammar Music Room, Gillies Ave
North Shore Chapter Meeting (Around the World)	April 14th	Sunnynook Community Centre

What's On

Off The Wall: WearableArt Up Close

Experience the World of WearableArt Up Close when this touring exhibition comes to Auckland Museum.

The exhibition features 30 of the most elaborate and original costumes with the stories behind each brought to life through an interactive showcase of creativity.

Venue: Auckland Museum

Address: Auckland Museum, Auckland Domain, Auckland CBD

Date: 22/02/2013 to 24/03/2013

Ticket: Free



Britomart Music & Markets

'Markets and Music' - a unique series of weekly Sunday Markets being held at Britomart Country Club from Sunday 24th February. Markets and Music is the perfect mix of fashion, rock n roll, and late Summer afternoons.

With a variety of designer and quality vintage clothing, jewelry, and art from Auckland's top artists for sale, the best in local music and guest DJs, food and drink specials, and a different line up each week, Markets and Music promises to be the best way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Auckland. (Cash only for Designer and Vintage clothing market)

Venue: Britomart Country Club

Date: 10/03/2013. 17/03/2013 1pm-6pm

Entrance: Free



TEAM NORTH SHORE

President	Robyn Wickenden	473 4449	president@afsns.org.nz
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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS	YOU.....?	All members and helpers welcome! Next meeting: 20th March 2013 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany	