



# AFS NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

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May 2013

## June 2013 AFS Meeting

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Sunday 23rd June 7pm

Venue: Sunnynook Community Centre

Our semester programme students will share their New Zealand experience with us as we will be saying goodbye to them: Victoire (France), Bianca (Argentina) and Beatriz (Argentina).

But in order to keep the atmosphere happy and jolly we will be holding a 'Kiwiana' quiz night (with prizes) later on in the evening, so don't think to miss out on the night!

## President's Report

It looks like our long bout of hot weather is over and winter has finally come. I hope you all are managing to stay warm and dry despite the rain. Remember to practise good hand-washing hygiene to help you keep away from all the coughs and colds doing the rounds as foreign bugs are easy to catch!

This weekend I am off to the AFS annual conference in Whakatane – I hope to be able to write further about what that may entail next time. It is the first time I have attended an AFS conference and also the first time I have been to Whakatane.

For those people nearing the end of their mid-year programmes, be you in NZ or overseas – make the most of your last couple of months as the time will fly past and next thing you know you will be back in your home country.

Robyn



## Inbox

Hello, my name is Jessica Torkington and I'm 17 years old. I arrived in Chile on the 22nd of February and I am staying till January. I am from Warkworth and attended Mahurangi College. In Chile I attend Colegio San Agustín and I live in Copiapo (which is in the North) and it's very different from green New Zealand as I live in a desert.

Schooling here is very different because we have to take around 10 subjects and we don't have the options of any technology. The hour for my school consists of 8am start and 6pm finish, and also eating our lunch at home. With my family I have visited Caldera and La Serena which are both on the shore, and are beautiful cities. I love my host family and I am lucky to have them. There is definitely never a dull moment with two younger brothers in the house. I came to Chile knowing no Spanish, and I have learnt so much these last two months. I can understand more and have a basic conversation with my family and peers. I am lucky to have a friend who speaks good English who teaches me a lot, but I am still learning. Then I will eventually be the little chatterbox I am. The people here are very friendly and love to talk, at school I had no troubles fitting in with my classmates as we have found that we are very similar. The different landscape that is offered in Chile is very beautiful, and AFS provides trips so we are able to see the South and North Chile, which I will be looking forward to. Chile is such a beautiful country and I have made many friends through AFS and my peers from school, and I'm happy that I'm having the most amazing time here in Chile. Everyone has made me feel at home, and I hope everyone that is on an exchange in New Zealand is having a blast! And for the others leaving soon, you are going to love it! Only 8 months left of my amazing adventure.

Stay safe,

Jessica Torkington



## Inbox

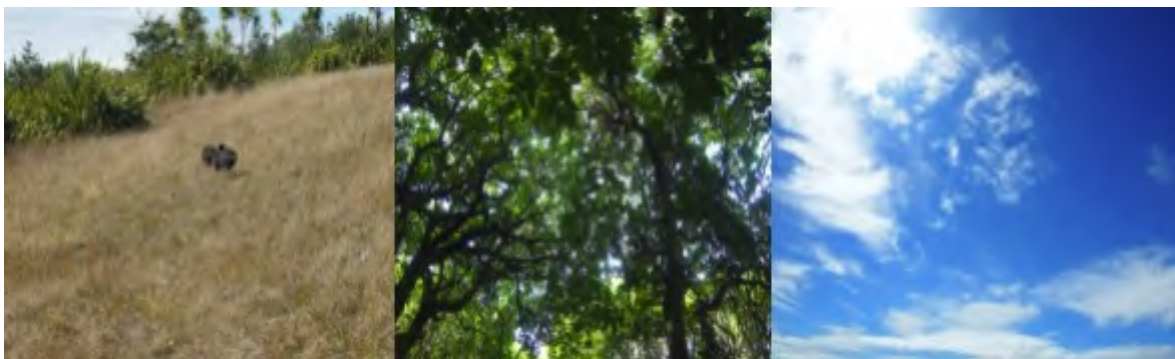
こんにちは! Konnichiwa! (Means hello in Japanese) My name is Nao, and I am from Japan (I think you already knew about that though) It has been 3 month since I arrived here, but it feels like 3 years or so. But I guess this means I'm living life to the full here in New Zealand. I've found lots of difference and everything was new at first. For example, I was surprised at many people hug when they meet someone for the first time. This never happens in Japan. I had heard that hugging is common in New Zealand and other countries before I came here, but this was still quite surprising for me. And of course food especially fish and chips (or shark n' tate) is absolutely my favourite. And hokey pokey ice cream - yes, what I'm surprised about is that there are so many ice cream shops here, and they are really cheap, which is very good for me. Maybe half the price of Japan! Differences that I noticed at school is that you can choose six subjects from heaps of them, and you have to move between classes which is really tiring

for me, because everyone does the same subjects in Japan so we stayed one class room. I think the good points of this system are that you can do whatever you want in depth and also choosing your subject could be a good opportunity to think about your future. I also noticed that after school activity is not strict at all here. I use to be in tennis club in Japan, and I practiced 5 days a week. I practiced pretty much every day even in the holidays. How crazy! Anyway, so you can join only one club in Japan. But here, I'm in concert band, big band, hockey club, and chorus club, because each club has practice day only once a week. I think it is good because you can learn heaps of stuff.

But also noticing these kinds of differences made me realize Japan's good points, and that made my values change. I guess this is quite important experience during your exchange.

My host family have taken me to many places. The best place we went is Tiritiri Matangi Island which is famous for protection of birds and nature. It was just beautiful and lovely. I saw a lot of birds such as fantails, tuis, takaha, kaka. I could only see doves and crows in Japan, so it was pretty interesting for me. And also native bush was beautiful as well. I had a great time there.

I'm frustrated that I am not always able to express what I want to say in English smoothly, but I believe in myself and will do my best. I hope this year will be the most amazing year of my life.



## Public Information: Host Students Community Service

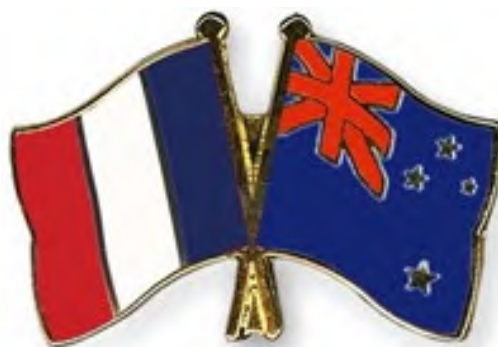
**Community service is part of your exchange in New Zealand.  
Here is an available opportunity for you to check out.**

The (Heart Children) Heart Awareness Week Street Appeal is 9-10 August. If you have good computer skills, you could help create the animoto clip (includes dragging pictures and putting them together) and if you are unsure of your computer skills but would still like to help, collecting materials and making donation boxes is another option. For more information please contact Robyn if you are interested.



### Welcome

We would like to welcome Rebecca Gough and her family!  
Rebecca has recently been selected to go to France for her student exchange in 2014.  
Good Luck!



## Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Venue
Motatapu Tree Planting Community Service	May 19th	Motatapu Island
Waitomo Weekend Trip	May 25-26	To be confirmed
Bay of Islands Trip	June 7-9	To be confirmed
Public Information Night	June 10	Epsom Girls Grammar School

## What's On

### **A Weird Night Out**

Live acts, DJs, and experiences in a transformed historic venue.

Weird Together, She's So Rad Special Disco June.

Mix (Live Debut), Boycrush, Paydirt, Tommy Flowers, Yam Jams & Chica Licorica, Sister We can't wait!

Act II, Such & Such, Double Dutch and special guests.

A multi zone 1-night extravaganza including The Harlem Shake & Juan Vesuvius's Calypso Nights, themed rooms and Lucky Taco!

\$15 presales from [iticket.co.nz](http://iticket.co.nz)

Venue: Victoria Park Market

Address: 210 Victoria St, Victoria Park Markets, CBD Auckland

Date: 25th May 2013 8.00PM

### **Aotea Ice Rink Returning!**

We hear that Paradise Ice Skating is bringing back the magical Aotea Square Ice Rink this

June.

Venue: Aotea Square

Address: Aotea Square, 303 Queen St, Auckland CBD

Date: 1st June 2013 - 1st August 2013



## 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 Robyn Atkins  Fiona Doyle Max Renshaw-Fox Heather Hodgson Amy Trigg		Chelsea <a href="mailto:c.bridgv@hotmail.com">c.bridgv@hotmail.com</a> Janelle <a href="mailto:janelle.r@windowlive.com">janelle.r@windowlive.com</a> Robyn Atkins <a href="mailto:robyn@toplinetradeservices.co.nz">robyn@toplinetradeservices.co.nz</a> Fiona <a href="mailto:fiona.doyle@itq.co.nz">fiona.doyle@itq.co.nz</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: 24th April 2013 7.30pm Africa Bar, William Pickering Avenue, Albany