

THE YEPPER

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9650

July 2009



Welcome to Youth Exchange for 2009 / 2010.

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And remember that YOUTH is "A ROTARY INVESTMENT in its FUTURE"

2008 – 2009 INBOUNDERS

David Schenker	Switzerland	RC of Great Lakes
Vinicius Spricigo	Brazil	RC of Coffs Harbour
Felix Johan Glantz Frankenberg	Sweden	RC Tamworth
Vigga Laursen	Denmark	R C Bellingen
Sini Saarinen	Finland	R C Nambucca Heads
Elisabeth Midtbø	Norway	R C Gloucester
Selva Montealegre Mendoza	Mexico	R C Walcha
Baifern Haruethaivijitchock	Thailand	R C Wingham
Jessica Kwan	Indonesia	R C Taree on Manning
Laura Hohrein	Germany	R C Woolgoolga
Ninon Strobl	Austria	R C Narrabri
Kevin Etheridge	Austria	R C Forster on Wallis
Loick Cabela	Belgium	R C Uralla
Lise Lerognon	France	R C Port Macquarie Sunrise

2009 - 2010 OUTBOUNDERS

Ryan Williams	Mexico	RC of Woolgoolga
Emily Holland	Belgium	RC of Port Macquarie Sunrise
Elise McKenzie	Austria	RC of Port Macquarie
Jess Portsmouth	Germany	RC of Woolgoolga
Reyna Sommerville	France	RC of Bellingen



**2009-2010
Ryan Williams
to MEXICO**



hey all

its been a very eventful month!!

I have been travelling around a lot and seeing the country which has been great, meeting new people and seeing new places I have been to Vera Cruz a bit and a big city called Puebla which has 365 churches one for each day of the day.

The new exchanges have arrived here and are like I was when I arrived..shy haha just got back from a huge hike up to a waterfall it was very "pretty"

Apart from that not to much has been happening..I have changed families for the third time and I'm not to sure what will be happening after that..

hope all is well at home
lots of love

Ryan

Ryan is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga



2009-2010
Vinicius Spricigo
from BRAZIL



Hey everyone. I'm having a great time in Aussie at the moment, but just a bit too busy. School has been killing me since I decided to work a bit harder to recover my marks in this last term.

Anyway, I've been to Brisbane for a quick visit to Barbara and Andrea, the two exchangers from Brazil in the district above, and it was sooo good. I loved to experience a bit of the Brazilian culture again, in a city that actually reminds me a lot of my own city in Brazil.

These days I got to half of my exchange year already and I realised how much I'm gonna miss this country and some of the people that I met here. Speaking of that, I'm making some pretty good friendships in school now, and doing lots of stuff with these friends as well, although some of these stuff are complicated because I don't live exactly in Coffs Harbour anymore.

Soccer's been pretty hard the last few days. I started playing with the adults and I'm always sore after the games now, but that's fine, I can't live without soccer anyways.

I'm looking forward on meeting the Inbounders on next weekend's meeting and I'm just hoping this tour will be at least half as good as the Safari.

Cheers

Vinnie

Vinnie is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Coffs Harbour



2009-2010
Emily Holland
To BELGIUM



What can you say when you realise you only have 6 months left? 23 weeks left of this year? I was in Gent, a Flemish city in Belgium, at a big 10 day festival where the whole city is alive all night with market places, concerts, dancing, carnivals, fairs, buskers, everything! We were sitting in a park with some Belgians, some Australians, some Brazilians some New Zealanders and a Turkish girl. Someone looked at their watch and said 'Everything has changed.' And we realised we were counting down now till the end of this year.

I can't believe I survived. 1 year. Half way across the globe. Completely different language. Know no one. You've had to start your own life. You get to know who you are; You have no outside input into who you would be friends with, what you should wear, what you should do, what you should think; You've gotta think for yourself. When I explain to someone what I'm doing here, they nearly always say 'I could NEVER do that.' I'm so glad I've never thought that and just leaped in without looking back.

But unfortunately, June and July haven't been the most exciting of months. Everyone's been cleared out of the country, either finishing their year or being whisked away on holidays with host families or on scout camps.

I've mostly been going to different cities all around Belgium, doing day trips with friends or just hanging at home, not exactly by choice, but due to being stuck out in the country with nothing but a bike and a dog. I changed families around the end of June after some clashes with my last family so I moved on to my 3rd family, a single lady, Marie-Claude, who I've been getting along really well with. She's been so much fun! I've met at least 50 of her friends and family in just a month and we go out at least once a week. One time was to go eat Mussels and fries (big big big Belgian delicacy around this time of year), another time was to a jet ski competition which was amazing to watch. I've got a huge craving to try it now. But I've met a lot of her friends kids who are my age and I go out a bit with them.

End of June I had my Berlin/Prague trip! It was amazing. But sad because I made best friends with some people who'd be leaving 10 days later. You could almost wipe out the first day as we were meant to sleep in the bus on the way to Berlin, which of course did not happen. I spent all night talking to my bus buddy, Chris, and we saw the sun and were just like 'oh, wait, were we meant to sleep then?' So the Berlin walking tour was spent finding places to sit and not move but we did meet lots of friends finding out who had the comfiest shoulder to lean on and going in shifts, letting one person semi-sleep while the other guided. Still didn't stop us from staying up till 1 in the morning talking to hostel goers and exploring Berlin by night (coffecoffeecoffee) Next day, we went to Prague, where we'd stay for the rest of the trip. We saw so much! And our rotary guides were so nice and let us go out every night and organising places to go. During the days we got to go see these beautiful castles and ancient buildings/ The whole city is full of historic buildings and little alleyways leading to apparently nowhere and you end up in front of hundred year old churches. The nights were spent running around the city or swimming or bowling in the hotel. When it was finally finished, it was all bittersweet farewells after another perfect trip with perfect people, this being the last time seeing a lot of them.

Anyway, I don't have a lot of time to finish this journal because I'm going to Barcelona in 20 minutes!!! A brief summary of my month: Oostende beach with some exchange girls from Colombia that I found in the train station, Doudou festival (amazing festival in my town. Giant dragon combat and crazy injuries), Namur twice (one time with 2 Belgian girls and the next time with a friend from New Zealand), family change, Harry Potter (once in French at a Rotary premier, a few days before the opening, and a second time in English at Brussels to try and lift out sprits after a farewell)

Ah crap! I have to go now! Hope you're all really happy and that all the Inbounders will have fun.

Bisous

Emily

Emily is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie Sunrise



2009-2010
Jess Portsmouth
to GERMANY



The first part of this month was completely hectic and I loved it!!! School finished and life was just getting interesting!

My host mother celebrated her birthday and we had heaps of people at our house. I made her a nice video of all the pictures and things we did together over the past six months and it had both of us in tears. But it was a really hot day and we had about 50 people over our house and all we did was eat and eat and eat! We also danced and made music out in the garden until 2 o'clock the next morning with neighbours and family. It was one of the most amazing days I have ever had in my life. We went swimming in the canal and with my host sister and I baked a cake with my host brother.

The 2nd of July was the last day in my first host family and the spent the whole day packing and having the last girly day with my mother and sister. It was really hot so we went swimming and hung out in the garden. It was really sad to leave them but I made sure that the last day was going to be one they would remember for ever. Because I know I will never forget their family, my family. The place that feels like home more than anywhere in the world right now. The people that helped me through the first six months of my life, the best 6 months of my life so far!!! I love them so much !!! But the best news is!!! My host sister is coming to Australia to stay with me for 7 weeks next year in her summer holidays!!!! They loved me and Australia that much!!!

On the 3rd of July I changed family's and now I live a lot closer into the city. I can ride my bike everywhere and go where ever I want to meet friends. NO MORE BUSES TO SCHOOL!!!! yay!!!

When I got to my new house my host brother (who was in Brasil for a year) had the whole house decorated with welcome to your new home jess posters, streamers and balloons. It was extremely nice and welcoming. It got rid of any angst I had for changing family's.

On the 4th of July I went to my best friends house Emily (from Perth) who lives in another city because it was her birthday. Turns out she is only 6 hours older than me!!!

On the 5th of July I celebrated my birthday in one of the nicest family's I know. My host family woke up at 12 am with birthday cake and streamers. It was a really nice gesture and I loved it. !!!

Then on the 6th of July I went to TURKEY!!!! My host family took me on vacation with them to stay in a five star hotel resort on the south coast of Turkey. In a city called BODRUM!!! It was one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen in my life and it was soooo warm!!! over 40 degrees everyday!

I spent so much time sunbaking on the beaches at the holiday resort we were at and travelling around turkey with my family. It is really such an amazing country!!! It so beautiful!!! I went a few times on boats snorkelling to different islands and parts of Turkey. It was gawjus!!!! The most beautiful holiday I have ever had!!!!

After I came back from Turkey I really felt like the second half of my exchange has begun. I am in my new family and have met lots of new people in the last two weeks! I have started to learn to play Piano, The drums and started playing soccer with my local soccer club. I have been meeting my German friends nearly every day and doing a lot stuff together in the holidays. My German is also extremely fluent and I am starting to forget my English extremely bad. Even my Australian parents tell me I talk like a German : (

At the end of this month we had a really big celebration in Minden!!! My town!!!! Over 200 000 people came for the weekend of celebrations!!! It was the 250th anniversary of the battle of Minden. It involved the British, Germans and French! So there were heaps of people here and many festivals and concerts. They had a live re-enactment of the battle (I found it funny because when the soldiers died they just stood up and kept fighting) obviously not so realistic ;)

I have also started to play soccer!!!! Everyone says its cause of my family. My brother and sister are mad soccer fans (like everyone in Germany) But it was really just something a new friend told me about and I thought anything where I meet new people, play sport and have fun is worth a go. So now I train with the nicest bunch of girls I have ever met, three times a week for 2 HOURS!!!! Most days I cant walk the next day. So I just lay in bed and hope its better before tomorrow because training starts again. They tell me at some point it gets easier. But I guess I'll just have to let you know ;)

At the moment all is SUPER!!!! I have definitely turned German!!! I have my soccer team (BAYERN MUNCIN!!!) And my Germany soccer jersey and my Bayern scarf. I am finding it hard to imagine a life without what I have here. It seems weird to think I lived anywhere else.

I don't want to go home and I don't want my year to be half over!!!! Its going tooooooo FASSSSTTTT!!!! Make time stop!!!

Well I'm off to keep living and enjoying the best year I have ever had in my life!! I hope al is well for all of you and that you are all having the most awesome year too!!!

xxx

Jess is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Woolgoolga



Felix Johan Glantz Frankenberg Inbounder from Sweden 2009

This month has been busy for me. I arrived in Sydney and got picked up by my host father Ken. We went to stay the night with the mother of my host mother at the northern beaches of Sydney. The next day we went down to Nowra. We went off the highway and took the scenic route by the coast. I saw the Sea Bridge, amazing "building". And I also saw some blow hole out at some cliffs in a small town. It was pretty cool. We stayed in Nowra a couple of days at Ken's sister's house. I met Ken's father. He is like 93 years old. One night we went to the movies to see the new Harry Potter movie. I think it was a great movie and I can't wait until the next one. Too bad it is like 3 years between them. After being in Nowra we went up to Tamworth where I'm staying. We took the Putty Road so I got to see some outback too.

I arrived at the house I'm going to live in for the next 3 months or so. I got a room in the bottom floor and I have my own bathroom. I went to my Rotary Clubs (Rotary Tamworth and Tamworth First Light) and introduced myself. The first two weeks was a lot of Rotary for me. I have been to like 9 meetings in 2 and a half weeks. Anyway, I don't mind, the food is good. One day in Tamworth, which seems like a really nice town, I went with Ken to the animal park up in the hills north of Tamworth. I saw some Australian native animals and was like half a meter from a kangaroo. I could have just stretched out and touched it. In Australia no one seems to like kangaroos though. Ha-ha, weird, I thought everybody loved them over here.

Later, on the weekend, I went to Moree to a Rotary meeting. We slept in Moree and the day after that we went to Walcha on another Rotary event. I didn't really have to be at that meeting so instead I went out and skateboarded a bit. I found a pretty cool skate park. Walcha has some crazy hills too that you can ride with the board down. Then I got back to Tamworth, fixed a little bit with the school uniform and some paperwork.

On the Tuesday I started school at Tamworth high school. Everybody is really nice and seems to be easy going people. The subjects I picked for school was Maths general, English standard, Arts, Hospitality, SLR, PE. I picked the practical subjects, so I won't have too many language problems and just have a good time during school. I have made some friends at school. Home in Sweden I almost only have guys as friends but here it appears like it's going to be like 50-50 boys and girls. Strange...

So I did the school week, it was good. On the weekend I didn't do anything particular, which was kind of good. I was heading to this gig down in town with some of the friends I made in school, but I didn't feel like going so I didn't really do anything in the whole week end. Yeah I went to the club one night to celebrate someone's birthday (don't remember who's). This week has started good and I have been to Dorrigo on another Rotary meeting. It was really scenic road there and the view from the house I stayed at over the night in Dorrigo was amazing.

The Aussie food really good. Di gave me vegemite, it was disgusting. I also tried chips and gravy, it was really good.

Felix

Felix is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tamworth



Elisabeth Midtbø Inbounder from Norway 2009

. Hello! This is my first YEPPER report, and my first month in Aus.

Everything has been great so far, it took a while for everything to sink in. When we sat on the plane and the pilot said we were landing in Sydney in 3 minutes everything seemed to real suddenly, but now I'm here and I love it. There are a lot of things that are different from what I'm used to, people are more relaxed here, while I'm stressed out, but it seems like I get more relaxed for every day.

So far I've experienced what normal tourist do when they get to Australia, I went to Sydney, and the opera and so on. It was really weird, looking at the pictures the day after. It looked like I was cut into the photo.

I've also spent my first week at school in the snow. That was heaps fun, I got to know everyone in my year pretty well, and they got to know me to. Everybody was pretty excited about the snow except me since I've seen snow pretty much 6 months a year, during my whole life. So while everybody else was shouting over the snow, I was counting kangaroo's. My first kangaroo was pretty funny, I stood with my back towards it, and almost everyone was shouting and pointing, it was like they hadn't seen a kangaroo before. So when we were at the snow I got heaps of meetings with kangaroos and emu's since they were pretty much everywhere.

I was actually surprised over the snow down here, because it was pretty good. We spent almost every day skiing at Blue Cow, I was the only one who didn't have lessons, so I got over almost all of the slopes each day, there were around 50, pretty cool!

The first week at actual school is over tomorrow, and that was something else... The first day I thought everybody was joking with me, because of the uniform, since we don't wear that home. I was constantly thinking are you sure the other kids are wearing this. Now it seems silly, but yeah. It was also pretty bad getting into biology and chemistry, since everybody have had it for years down here, and at home were supposed to start on it in year 11. So now I'm pretty much having my nose in the book all the time since I have no idea what the teacher is talking about. Also they don't use calculators in math here, and I was pretty shocked, the others was pretty shocked too since my calculator could draw graphs at it and stuff.

So now I've almost been here for a month, and the days have gone by really quick, but now everything seems to be cooling down and it's beginning to feel more like home.

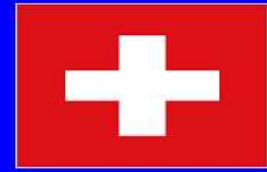
I love Australia so far!

xoxo Elisabeth ☺

Elisabeth is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gloucester



2009-2010
David Schenker
from SWITZERLAND



Hello everyone! A special welcome to all the new inbounders!! Hope you have all started life in oz well and I am looking forward to meeting you all!!

This month has been quite busy for me. After the safari trip I only had about a week break and then I went to Adelaide for two weeks to visit a couple whose daughter is staying with my family in Switzerland. I flew from Newcastle to Melbourne and then on to Adelaide. It was a long day's travel and because I had a cold my ears were hurting really bad for a few days when I arrived. The first few days I stayed in Adelaide and they showed me around the city and we did some day trips to Victor Harbour and some other places near Adelaide. It was great and I really loved it. In Victor Harbor I saw whales and penguins in the sea and also went to a park where I fed kangaroos and koalas and saw lots of other Aussie animals like crocs and kookaburras.... After some time in Adelaide I went to Port Pirie with the couple where they live and from there we made some day trips in the Flinders Ranges and stayed in Wallaroo for a few nights which is a very pretty little coastal town.

After those two great weeks in South Australia I went back home to Forster where I still had one week of holidays left which was great. I chilled a lot and really didn't do much except hang out with some friends and play soccer.

Then school started again and my life went back to normal. Last weekend I went to Gloucester to go visit my host's son who is a manager of Gloucester Coal so he showed me around the coal mine which was very good because I had never been to a mine before. Also he showed me all the cattle he has and he gave me a tour around his property which is huge for my standards but anyone in Australia wouldn't agree with me.

So now everything has settled down a little and the next thing happening is a trip to the Blue Mountains with my hosts. I am looking forward to seeing some "mountains" although I don't expect them to be Swiss standard. And then at the end of the month its district tour time which I am looking forward to a lot.

Again I hope that everyone is settling in well!

Cheers!

David

David is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Great Lakes



Vigga Laursen Inbounder from Denmark 2009

The 23th of July I met with 41 exchange students in Copenhagen. All of us were going to Singapore. After a heartbreaking goodbye to our parents we flew half a day through turbulences and lightning. Though the most of us got nervous it was a great tour. We were all talking and all of us were excited. A whole year in a new country!

In Singapore I was one of the lucky seven, who slept in a hotel. We were traveling a night, but only a few slept because of the good mood in all of us.

After Singapore 3 of us flew to Sydney. Another long tour full of talk and laugh.

The three of us split up and I met with the German exchange student, Laura. This tour only lasted 1 hour, and this time I could see the sight of Australia's coastline.

In Coff's Harbour I met with the former Rotary president; Peter, and his wife; Wendy.

They showed me around in Coff's Harbour and showed me Kangaroos the same night. Even though I was very tired, Peter and Wendy were most friendly and introduced me to Vegemite. Uhm..!

The next day my Counsellors; James and Diana, picked me up. Bellingen was a lot colder, but I had a lot of fun the week I spend with them. I managed to go for a long bush walk with James and his friend; Tom. It was hard, and a bump in the road for them was like a mountain for me. I managed to come home alive – But only just.

I started my school the 29th of July. On the first day I went for a bus trip with my class. A career-day. Lucky me, had my photo in the paper for that. The first school day was fast over and I loved it. I can with honesty say that Bellingen High School and its students are great! A lovely first school day. The same day I went on a walk with a fellow student in Bellingen city and North-Bellingen.





The next few days went incredibly fast. The former exchange student: Lasse, had taken his family to Australia and introduced them to James and Diana. They stayed there as well, so we were 5 Danish people in the house. It felt weird to use my Danish again.

The 1st of August was a really busy day. Diana, her two daughters, Lasses sister and I went to Coff's Harbour. Here we saw Melanie's wedding dress. Beautiful. Afterwards we shopped. Because we were in a hurry so we went home and started to prepare for a BBQ the same day. A lot of people showed up. It was really lovely and I met the next exchange student from Australia to Denmark, Laura. A sweet girl.

After the BBQ I finely got my first

host family. The Newcombe family. It was nice to finally be able to unpack. The family gave me an Australia patch and a kangaroo key ring. It's now on my blazer.

My host family are into basketball and netball a lot. Therefore they took me to basketball the second day. We drove all the way to Port Macquarie. It took one and a half hours. That's normal distance in Australia. Amazing.

Two of Debbie and Greg's daughters played refs in basketball. It was Victoria and Emily. I saw a couple of games and then we went out for shopping. A great shopping center and I hope I'll see more of it another time. Victoria and I share foot size, so if I'm lucky I can borrow shoes.

My other sister is Rebecca. Another lovely girl. Rebecca and her parents are in SES. It's State Emergency Service.

My host brother is Lachlan. He is nice too. He even let me borrow his computer. I'm using it right now for this report, so everybody should thank him for this report.

Last but not least I would like to mention my first bon-fire. It was on the 7th of August. I was with good friends from 8:35 am to 10:15 pm. I first had to do my school. That was lovely. Afterwards my friends and I



went out for coffee and tea. I'm getting used to all this tea drinking. – But after the coffee and tea we walked to North-Bellinggen to get dinner at Kathleen's (One of my friends) house. We drove to the bon-fire. It was HUGE!! It was almost a half wood burning. You could stand 3 meters away from it, but it was that hot our faces would be burning. We played point-flags later. It was one of the many brutal Australian games. We had to tackle each other and there was no mercy. It was just as tough as Rugby league, but it was fun as crazy!

So all in all I'm enjoying Australia. I can't believe I have been here for 2 weeks, because it doesn't feel like it. It will be the year of my life!

Vigga is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bellinggen



Sini SaarinenInbounder from Finland 2009

Hi! My name is Sini Saarinen and I'm an exchange student from Finland.

I've been in Australia for almost 3 weeks and it's been just great so far. I arrived in Sydney after 4 days in Singapore with the other Finnish exchange students and met my host mom Isobel there. We went to see the city; I saw the Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour, Harbour Bridge and a lot more. After a couple of hours in Sydney we left for Coffs Harbour where I first met my host dad Len and District Counsellors, James and Diana.

On my first week I didn't have school so I had time for sleeping and settling into my new family. I had some jet lag and it was good to relax at home. I had a trip to South West Rocks with my Club Counsellor Kay and saw my first kangaroos, 20 at the same time! It was amazing. I also saw a whale which was interesting too.

The next weekend we spent in Sydney, went to a fine restaurant, Tetsuya's and I saw a bit more of the city. I also met one exchange student from Finland, the one with whom I spent time together in Singapore. I got to speak Finnish again and it was good to talk about our experiences, I had a great time with Milja.

I started school last week, on Tuesday. When I arrived, there were three students there to show me places and introduce me to people. The first day was nice but I couldn't remember the names after that! My school is very different here than in Finland, the climate is so much warmer here so they don't have heating in classes (and it's very cold to be there in the mornings...), we don't get free lunch like in Finland and the whole school system is very different. Here I was able to choose the subjects I wanted to do, so I'm having English, Math, Senior Science, Hospitality, Food Technology and Music of course, and I enjoy them all! I've made a lot of new friends, I love to go to school and I'm having great time there. I've been asked a lot about Finland and I've taught some Finnish to my friends. People are so much friendlier and nicer here than in Finland, where people are a bit reserved when they don't know each other well, so I really enjoy being here!

My English is getting better and better, I'm now braver to speak English than what I was before I came. I have to explain all the things in English now, which is good for my speaking. I'm still a bit shy, our culture in Finland is so different, but I'll be fine in time.

I'm looking forward to the district tour and meeting all the other exchange students in this district in Uralla! It'll be great to meet people who are going through the same things as I am.

I love to be here, so happy with my family and living in a beautiful place, hopefully I'll get a chance to go to the beach soon!

Regards,
Sini

Sini is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nambucca Heads