

2023/2024 Holiday Report

Hello you all,

before I start my Report, I want to thank you all for making my Exchange Year here in Australia possible and it's been an unforgettable time so far. I'm very lucky to be in such a great Rotary club who is very engaged and caring for their exchange students. I really appreciate this. I had a great time over Christmas and in my Holidays, spending a lot of the time down south with great People.

Week 18-24.12.23



The morning started with a very remarkable Nasty Santa Rotary-Meeting, where you chose a present and either open it or swap it with an opened Present from another Person. It is a lot of fun especially if there is a lot of stealing. After the meeting I went with a couple other Exchangestudents to the Beach and got my first and hopefully last really bad sunburn. I've never seen my back so red before. :-P With this pain in my back, Elis and I went to the cinema the next evening and watched the movie "Napoleon". Another very good historic movie which I highly recommend to watch. I had the chance on Thursday to go sailing

on one of the bigger boats of the Freshwater Yacht club. It was a great experience, but I prefer smaller boats, where you can influence the boat with your own body movements.



On this Friday, Chris Dawson took Elis and me to the Aviation Heritage Museum and gave us a very interesting tour and explained us all the amazing facts about the airplanes. It was a great day with Chris and I'm very thankful for giving me the opportunities to see the museum.

Because my grandfather was a hobby pilot and build model airplanes, I've always been interested in aviation. In the Afternoon Elis and I went to the Art gallery of WA, where we had a great time and really enjoyed the Art there

we also had the Chance to create our own Art inform of building creatures out of foam forms. On the 23rd we went together to the Swedish café in Fremantle to get a little bit of the cold Christmas feelings.



On the Sunday the 24th Ian took me to two German Services in the City. It was a great to present Ian a little part of my German culture. The first service was with Children, who played the Christmas story and the next one was a adults service with Last Supper. After Graeme picked us up from the Church, he dropped me of at my current Hostfamily Clarksons House and we went to a Christmas corals evening. It was a very good thing to get me in Christmas vibes.



Christmas-Day



My Christmas day started with Lorri's daughters Family with a great unboxing and an amazing Australian Christmas Lunch with Ham, Prawns, Salad, Turkey and so much more good Food. I spend the rest of the early afternoon having fun in the Pool with all of Lorri's Grand grandchildren. It was a very different but amazing Christmas experience full of Australian culture and Food. In the evening I was invited from Rotarian Peter and Dany McEwen to join their Family for Dinner. After a quick nap I went over and

had a amazing time with their family, were I had great company and a lot of wonderful food from Dany's son, who is an amazing chef. I really enjoyed Christmas in Australia and I'm very thankfull for all the people who made Christmas as great as it was. It was a day of joy and not of feeling Homesick. :-D



Week 26-31.12.23



On Boxing-Day I got picked-up from Reef, Elis Hostfather, who invited me to spend some time with them down South in Cowaramup and surrounding. We travelled with nearly half Perth down south, so we drove 5 hours instead of 3, which was great to really get to know each other. We spend the evening playing our own version of the Australian Tennis Open, where Sweden and Germany lost very badly against Australia.

The next Day started very active as well. We went to

Margret River and rented some Mountain Bikes and spend the whole day riding in the end 20km of Bike Trails in the Forest. Elis and I where very happy to finally have the Chance to go Trail riding. It always was a dream of me to do this.

On Thursday we caught the bus to Busselton to catch up with a couple other exchangestudents. We went on the Busselton yeti and in the Aquarium there, which was very



impressive to see the Underwater world there. After a quick jump from the yeti we went without and jellyfish bites back to Cowaramup and spend the evening with friends of Reef and Stacy.

On The next morning we drove to Grace town and had a beautiful snorkel there. We saw a lot of the fishes again, which we've seen in the aquarium in Busselton before.

After a quick trip to surfers Point, we started a new round of the Australien Minigolf Open, where Australia won and Germany at the last hole the 2nd Place lost, because of a Hole-in-one from Sweden.



The following Day had an early start, to be one of the first Persons at Kilcarnup Beach to enjoy the beauty of Nature once again. Such a lovely Morning. We ended the evening at at one of their friends Brewery.



We started New Year's Day with a very fast Yet ski on the Water in Grace Town. Where finally could enjoy the Australian Biscuit-culture and where very happy, when we got dropped of at beach again.



"I've never had a better massage before" :-). After that we went on a little sightseeing tour to Yallingup, where we spend the night on a lovely new Year's Party on a Farm. After calling my Parents to wish them a happy new year. We started packing up, so we could leave at 10a.m. I enjoyed the different nature compared to Perth and Germany and the company there the most.

Week 01-07.01.24



The Tuesday was my last day with Lorri, so I packed all my stuff and tried as hard as I could, to not use to many extra bags, but there are quite a couple things to carry.

On Tuesdaynight Lorri and I went to the Fremantle harbour and had fish and chips together with a great view on the Ocean. It was lovely to review my time with her and all things I could experience so far here. I'm more then grateful, that Lorri hosted me for the first three Moth. It was a great experience, which I never forget. Thank you for being my Hostgrandma, Lorri.

Then on Wednesday Morning I changed my Family for the first time. It was a strange feeling to get pulled out of your home for the last Moth, going into new and different house. But I didn't felt anything of that, when I entered the front door of Family Clarkson in Attadale. Tom, Aurian, Ailiana, Leandra and Artemis made a very lovely welcoming for me. In the afternoon we started straight to the Beach and had a swim at Camp Waller.



On the next days I tried to get to known everything and tried to keep my diary updated. On Friday night we went to Tom's parents and had a Family dinner with them there.



On Sunday we made a little hike all around Coogee Beach and ended with a little swim in the Water, which was absolutely lovely. On Sunday we went to Toms Grandmother and helped her watering her garden and to give her some company.



Week 08-14.01.24



On Monday I ride to Fremantle to Elis. We spend the afternoon in the Pool and having fun playing some Card games. After the really hot ride back Home I just jumped into the pool and felt to bed. On Wednesday morning I meet up with my Schoolmate Oscar at the Trans-WA Bus station, to travel all the way down to Cowaramup, where his mother picked us up to drive all the way to Augusta, where we spend the next



five days together. We went several times snorkelling, visited a lot of beautiful beaches, Lake cave, Margret River, went Crabbing, saw sting raises, sailed a bit and went up on the Light house in Augusta. I was a really great time with Oscar and his Family. I haven't had so such fun playing card games all night long.



Week 15-21.01.24



After the amazing time with Oscar, I had the opportunity to spend one week with Conner's Mother Chris Caithness and her husband Brent and her two other sons Bailey and Jackson. We had a great time there together, digging a way out for the tractor, watching E.T. at an open-air Cinema in Busselton,



visiting Fonty's Pool in Manjimup, going to a Climbing-Park called Monkey Business, which was a lot of Fun to climb in and spending time on the Farm with many Kangaroos. On Day I slept outside in a tent under the clear Sky. The Night sky didn't welt so close before. I was an unforgettable night, hearing all the animal around you.

Thank you for all the things I could do with you and offering me the opportunity for being on an Australian Farm.



Week 22-28.01.24

I was very excited for our Rotarymeeting about the Bibbulmuntrack, because that was one of the first topic Ian Fairnie and I discussed when I first arrived in Perth and I think it was a full success listening to and more important asking the speaker a lot of questions about the Track. We also had a couple of other Exchangestudents via Zoom in the meeting, which I really appreciate. **The idea of our trip is, that every Exchangestudent should/ needs one or more Rotarians to walk the Part from Denmark to Albany (45km) with us. So if you are interested in walking the Track with other Exchangestudents, Rotarians and me, please let me know. We are planning to walk the Track in the Easter Holidays, but the date is not defined yet.**

After the meeting I was very excited to unpack my Christmas Presents from my Family back home. It was so great and made me a little homesick at the same time.



In the Rest of the week I focused on training and improve my sailing skills to pass the scout sailing course on the weekend. I learned all theoretical knowledge with my Hostdad Tom, who is a passionate sailor in



alternation with the practical part of actually going sailing with other scouts. From Friday to Sunday I had the course and it was a lot of fun and a lot of work for me. We need to show all the required sailing knowledge and I was very happy to hear that I passed, after we sailed to Carnac Island and back. It was an outstanding experience.

First Week back in school 29.01 -04.02.24

I was very excited to get back to school and finally see all my mates back in school. I felt like an actual part of the school, because I'm not just the New Exchangestudent who no one knows the name. It was very great to see everyone back in school. My way to school worked out very well. I take the bus every Morning, where I don't have Waterpolo in Morning, otherwise I got driven by Aurian or Tom.

As normal I go to my Scout meetings every Tuesday night and enjoy the company there as well.

On Saturday Elis's Hostdad and I organized a little surprise party for him, because he changed Hostfamilies on Sunday. He was very happy about it and we had a great evening.

On Sunday morning Elis from Sweden, Othilie from Norway and Katrine from Denmark and me went to an Social Handballtraining at the UWA. Because Handball is a very popular sport



in Europe and South Amerika we only had one Australian player there, which was very funny. Othilie and I are both playing Handball back in our Home country and we missed it a lot to play it. As she said today "you just have movement in yourself and you always try to play". So this was my absolut Highlight of the first Week back in School and we want to continue plaing there.

Thank you to everyone, who made my exchange and my experience here and from Australia better. I'm really looking forward to do some more fun things and happy to do everything I can.

Thank you,
Valentin