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Dear Katrina Fox

It has been almost 2 months since my arrival in France. I write this letter to update you on what I have done in this time.

When I arrived at Charles de Gaulle airport I was in complete shock. This was my first time to travel to foreign country other than Fiji. This is a lot different though, since I am without my family this time. For 2 days, I stayed at a Paris youth hostel along with about 50 other AFS exchange students. A completely new experience for me. We all went to see the main sights in Paris, including the Eiffel tower and the Arc de Triomphe. Amazing.

After the two days, I caught a train to meet my host family. I was very excited but at the same time quite nervous. When I finally did meet them they made me feel comfortable. It was not long before I felt like part of the family. It wasn't until at least a week that it sunk in that I had left my family for six months, but I coped well.

The hardest thing at the start was understanding nothing. I went to my first AFS meeting and only French was spoken. I barely understood a word. Though I have quickly progressed since then. I understand most of what people say, though I don't speak much. My classmates were surprised about how much more I understand now than at the start.

I have done many interesting and enjoyable activities while I've been here too.

When I first arrived there was snow everywhere. Obviously very exciting for me as I live in Australia. We went sledding 1 day. Very fun but very dangerous.

I also went to a Safari park, which is conveniently only 5 km from my home. A great experience. All the animals were interesting. Many roamed free on the sides of the road.

My most enjoyable experience in France was going to a ski resort during the school holidays. It was a beautiful place. I attempted snowboarding, but unfortunately injured myself on the first day so I was incapable of doing anything active for the

week. But I still enjoyed myself. It probably would have been better though if I did snowboarding a little longer.

Another activity I've done is bike-riding. It made me realise how unfit I am. We went for a 25km ride and I thought I was going to pass out. Not a single piece of road was flat. Just 21km uphill and the last 4 down. I enjoyed myself though

I play table tennis every Wednesday with my brother Stephane. I enjoy that. Table tennis is one of my favourite sports now.

I have fitted well into French school as well. At the start I was very tired after every day owing to the fact that the school day lasts 9 or 10 hours, except Wednesday. It is even harder now, since I have work from my French classes and from Australia. I sleep well every night.

That's about all I've done here so far. I would like to thank Linfox for giving me this opportunity. I am very grateful. It is invaluable for me in experience and it has opened my mind about the world now that I've been able to experience it other than in Australia.

Bye for now
Adam Moon-Rudd