

Letter from Lauren Hawke-Enciso
Commonwealth Department of Defence Scholarship (RAAF)
School Year Program from Australia to Denmark 2007

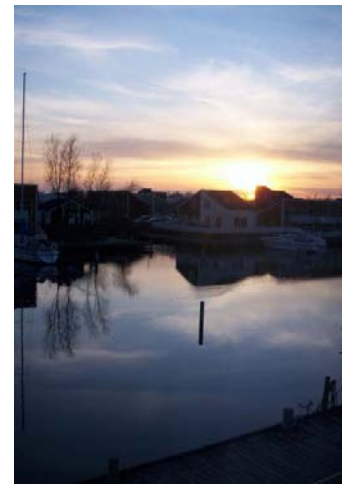
Hadsten
10th July, 2007

Dear Director General Defence Community Organisation,

I have now passed the six month mark of my Defence sponsored scholarship in Denmark. I have fallen even more in love with this beautiful and youthful country. My host family continue to support me in all my day to day activities as well as my school class friends

Since my last update, I have participated in many things and I have met even more interesting people from all over the world.

On the 14th of April, I and the fellow Australian AFSers went to Ebeltoft for our three month camp. We spoke about our families, schools, and how our lives have changed thus far. It was a beautiful, relaxing weekend with beautiful scenery and nature. We all agreed that Denmark has already had an impact on our lives and how we view ourselves, and others.



View from the
bedroom at Ebeltoft



Fregatten Jylland

I also visited the former Royal Danish Navy frigate Jylland (fregatten Jylland). This ship is unique as it is the longest wooden warship in the world; built in the naval shipyards from 1856 to 1860. The Danish people's history is shaped by its maritime history from Viking times as I have learnt in my visits around the country.

At the end of the 2006/2007 school year I received my second school report. This time I was only graded for three subjects: English, Spanish and Media. I received a 12 for English, sevens for Spanish and Media. When compared to Australia's education standards, these grades are equivalent of an A+ (12) and a B (7). I am quite happy with these results and hope to be graded for more subjects in the coming months. My favourite subjects are Sport, Biology,

English, Spanish and Media. These classes are fun and it is easy to understand and communicate with my fellow classmates in these classes.



My Danish language skills, particularly vocabulary, have also progressed very well. We speak only Danish at home now and I am beginning to use Danish when in public, ie: ordering food, shopping, at the bank etc. At first I was really nervous, but Danes really appreciate my efforts when you *attempt* to speak their language, so it is all worth it.

On the 20th July my host family and I will go away on holidays for a fortnight. We will drive through Germany and Austria and eventually spend most of our holiday time in Hungary. I have never been to Hungary before and I can revisit the beautiful cities of Austria so this will be an exciting and fun time for me. It will also an opportunity to spend some quality time with my host family, as this is a rare occasion, with them working five days a week, and my host sister taking exams and her other extra curricular activities.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the ADF for your generosity in sponsoring me as well as for your continued support and interest in my time abroad. So many opportunities have come to me because of this scholarship and I'm only half way through my Danish stay. I cannot wait to see what the next six months brings, however I expect to consolidate and expand on my Danish language skills and visit additional parts of Denmark, including the Danish birthplace of my great great grandmother in Robkopping.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Hawke-Enciso
AFSer in Denmark.



Me and best friend, Janni