

Letter from Melissa Fraser  
Western Power Scholarship Winner  
School Year Program from Australia to the Netherlands 2007  
(AUSYPscNEDSH07)  
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I am Melissa Fraser and I'm spending my year on exchange in The Netherlands. I am nearly half way through my exchange program and it has gone so fast. I am having a good time.

I am currently on summer vacation. I finished school on Wednesday the 13th of June and I return to school on the 17th of August. I have done a lot of travelling around Holland with my friends and the other Australians that are in Holland as well. Some of the great places that I have been to are Delft, Amsterdam, Maastricht and Utrecht. I really enjoyed looking around at the different places as each place is different. Every place is different from another place. When the weather is good I go riding a lot. I enjoy riding around.

My host family took me to Brussels. When we went to Brussels we went to the Atomium. It is a big statue of an atom. It has nine spheres but only six spheres are open for exhibitions. The highest sphere is 102 metres in the air. It has a restaurant in the sphere with a really nice view over the Brussels city. There are tubes connecting all the spheres together. There are some good exhibitions in the spheres. I really enjoyed going to the Atomium. We also caught the metro into the city of Brussels. It is a very big and nice city. We went into big church. It was beautiful inside. I really liked it.

School is going good. I still have lots of friends. They are all very nice and I really enjoy being around them. Once we come off summer vacation we are moving to a new school. They have built a bigger school in Veldhoven for us. We are all very excited to be at a more modern school. It should be good.

On the 25th of May, AFS took us to Walibi World. Walibi World is like a theme park with a lot of fun things to do. It gave us a chance to see everyone again and to even meet people from different countries. It was fun. Not everyone went but that was ok. The weather was very nice. The sun was shining so that enabled us to go on every ride that we could with the amount of time we had. We are going again before we come home.

In nearly every city there are big churches. The churches are very nice. When I went to Delft I went into two churches. The old church and the new church. They are both beautiful, but the new church is more modern. In nearly all the old churches they have graves of dead bodies in the floor. It is so weird. You can actually stand on top of the grave. It is a weird feeling standing on top of graves. I like looking in the churches. They are all so beautiful and are looked after really well. Sometimes you have to pay to go in and have a look but it is all worth it.

On the 30th of April it was Queens Day. I spent Queens Day in Amsterdam. It was awesome. Every one was wearing something orange and it was just a great atmosphere to experience. I would guess that there would have been about seven million people in Amsterdam on this day. It was a great day. They had big concerts on ovals and people were selling things to make money and everyone was just going crazy. The streets were full. It took nearly an hour to get from one end of the street to the other end. People were also partying on the canals in boats. It was awesome. I am really glad that I went.

Well I better be off. I am having a wonderful time in Holland and I will be in contact in another few months. Good bye for now.

Yours sincerely,  
Melissa Fraser  
The Netherlands  
2007/2008