

Letter from Wade McMillan
ANZ Regional & Rural Banking Scholarship Winner
School Year Program to Costa Rica 2007
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Dear ANZ customers and staff members.

This is my second letter for you to inform you all of my time in Costa Rica.

I have now been in Costa Rica for more than six months and am still having a great time. Just after I wrote the last letter not much had happened because I was in school everyday, studying which is very difficult because in my home town in Australia it was easy to learn not concentrating 100% but here I have to knuckle down because it is in Spanish. After 4 months I could speak Spanish very well but as for my English I do apologise for that. I never thought I would lose my natural language but it has happened.

Time is going very well here but I did go through a rough patch at about the 5 month part where I had to say goodbye to 3 of my best friends I had made. Being apart of an exchange year is very beautiful; meeting new people, knowing other countries and having new experiences but the hard part is saying goodbye to amazing people that I don't know when I will ever see again. I am very lucky that the people in Costa Rica are very friendly because I also have many friends who really do help me out when I feel upset.

I have recently finished my school holidays where I had the opportunity to visit Panama with AFS Costa Rica. 30 other exchange students and I left Costa Rica early in the morning and traveled 20 hours in a bus. While I was in Panama I had the opportunity to visit one of the famous world landmarks, the Panama Canal. Panama was very beautiful and also very cheap to buy clothing and electrical items. The girls really did go crazy, buying more clothes than they would wear in a year. We were in Panama for 5 days, and came back to Costa Rica with new experiences and more clothing but very tired. In the second week of the holidays my host family took me to Guanacaste which is a province of Costa Rica which has some of the best beaches in all of Central America. It was very beautiful. We had a beach house to ourselves on a private beach but traveled to many other famous beaches during the days. We once again returned home very tired ready for school to start again in two days.

School has started again and so has the studying. I am trying to make the most of my time in school to learn Spanish, the history of Costa Rica and the culture of an adolescent in Costa Rica. School here is a very different experience because I'm making best friends with teenagers that have a completely different look on life. I believe that with this understanding of these things will help me adapt to any kind of situation later on in life because I have learnt that not everyone is the same and that everybody has different beliefs. I now only have till October before I finish school but I will be helping the other students in school with their studies for English and mathematics.

I would like to thank ANZ for their generosity for giving the opportunity of a life time and look forward to seeing everyone in 4 months.

Thank you once again

Wade McMillan



Panama City



All of the exchange students that went to Panama



This is me with a present from some local surfers



This is Flamingo Beach



The Panama Channel