



Lions Clubs International  
District 03 Argentina & District 201W2 Western Australia

## Lions Youth Exchange Program

### Santiago Mamberti, Leo from Argentina, visits Western Australia & Camp Krokodile

Hi, I am Santiago Mamberti from Argentina. I am 17 years old and have been a member of the Allen Leo Club in Patagonia for five years and in the coming year I will be Vice President of my District. My parents, father Dardo and mother Liliana, are members of the Lions Club of Allen. In July 2010, I travelled to Australia with the Lions Youth Exchange Program and lived with host families in Western Australia for three weeks and attended Camp Krokodile on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

The journey from my home town to Perth Airport – through Auckland and Sydney – took 30 hours. I was quite jetlagged when Lion Denis and Margaret O'Brien of the Lions Club of Bull Creek met me at Perth Airport. On 3 July, my second night in Perth, my country Argentina lost its qualifying World Cup Soccer match against Germany. Although I was very happy to be in Perth, I was sad that Argentina had been expelled from the competition.



*LEFT: My Argentinian flag*

*RIGHT: My family:  
father Dardo, mother  
Liliana, sisters Cecilia and  
Augustina and brothers  
Juan and Dardo .I am on  
the far right.*



### AUSTRALIAN HOST FAMILIES

I lived with four host families from the Lions Club of Bull Creek (Lion Denis and Margaret O'Brien and daughter Carmen, Lion Cherrie Goodier, Lion Terry and Cheng Kwai Johnson and Lion Kim Wilkinson) and PDG Keith and Lion Lorri Jones from the Lions Club of Boyup Brook (250 km south of Perth).



*Members of my host families (left to right) - Terry Johnson, Denis O'Brien, Kim Wilkinson, Cherrie Goodier, Lorri and Keith Jones*

### CITY AND COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

Perth is a very beautiful and clean city near the ocean. My host families from Bull Creek Lions (near Perth City) took me to:

- many family dinners, BBQs and get-togethers. I enjoyed staying with every family and each time I did not want to leave and move to a new family.
- an Aussie Rules football match at Subiaco Oval (between the Fremantle Dockers Football Club and Port Adelaide Club)
- the Pinnacles in Nambung National Park, 270 km north of Perth city. Austrian youth exchangee Anna Neubauer and her host, Pushpa Rama, joined Denis and Margaret O'Brien and myself when we travelled to the Pinnacles. Anna and I encourage other host clubs to combine activities so exchangees can meet each other. It was a great day!
- Subiaco Oval, Perth City, Perth Zoo, AQUA aquarium, coastal beaches and Kings Park

- the Port city of Fremantle and a music club
- I spent one day as a student at Rossmoyne Senior High School where I attended Art, Language and Mathematics classes. Compared to my school in Patagonia, which has 30 Yr 12 students, Rossmoyne High has 300 Yr 12 students. I study every day with the same students in Argentina. At Rossmoyne there were different students in each lecture.
- I attended meetings of Bull Creek Lions and gave presentations at both meetings.
- I prepared the traditional Argentinian tea called “mate” which is quite bitter. Some of my brave hosts drank it but many had to add sugar.

I travelled to the south-west country town of Boyup Brook and spent five days living with Keith and Lorri Jones and their extended family and enjoyed the following activities:

- meeting members of the Boyup Brook Leo Club and speaking about my country and the 90 Leo Clubs in Argentina.
- cooking a meal with Leo Molly and Gonzalos Sierra Castille, a Chilean exchange student, who studied for five months at Boyup Brook District High School. I attended his big farewell party.
- meeting Shire President Terry Ginan, and Shire Councillors in the Boyup Brook Council Chambers. I gave a presentation about Argentina and Leo Clubs.
- raising the noise levels in the Jones family home by playing the drums when the family had a music jam session
- sightseeing around Boyup Brook - the Harvey Dickson Country Music Centre and Rodeo and Roo Gully, a famous animal sanctuary where I touched a possum, kangaroo and saw other Australian birds and animals.

### CAMP KROKODILE

The camp was good fun. There were 26 youths from 10 different countries – Finland, USA, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Australia, Austria, Denmark, Italy and Argentina. We did a lot of great activities: Aboriginal dancing, mountain walking, driving karts, canoeing, parties, body surfing, football, soccer, surfing and whale watching. I would recommend this camp to every exchangee because the activities were great, the Sunshine Coast is beautiful and the camp staff were excellent.



**ABOVE LEFT** - preparing mate **ABOVE CENTRE** – at Steve Irwin Zoo, Queensland, with Italian youth from Camp Krokodile **ABOVE RIGHT** - feeding a kangaroo at Roo Gully near Boyup Brook **BELOW LEFT** - overlooking the Swan River from Kings Park, Perth, with Margaret O’Brien **BELOW CENTRE** – at Camp Krokodile with Marit from Norway **BELOW RIGHT** – visiting the Pinnacles with Austrian exchangee, Anna.



### THANK YOU EVERYONE

I want to thank my parents for affording my youth exchange visit to Australia. Also, thank you very much to my host families, the Lions Clubs of Bull Creek and Boyup Brook and Boyup Brook Leos in Western Australia, staff at Camp Krokodile in Queensland and the youth exchange organisers in Australia and Argentina. I had an unforgettable time.

Lions Youth Exchange Program – [www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye](http://www.lionsclubs.org.au/ye)

Flyer prepared by Lion Helen Dalglish, District 201W2 Youth Exchange Chairperson 2009-2010