Outbound to Sweden.

My year started as a blur I found myself saying goodbye to my family with not the slightest idea of what great year lay ahead of me for one, and what I was actually in for during my year, it all felt like a dream. But once I got to Sweden I quickly became comfortable with my exchange as I landed the best host family I could possibly have wished for in an exchange. The Widmarks gave me the perfect settling in Sweden, they were as close to my real parents as I think anyone could ever get, and to add to the similarities I also had 3 brothers in the family who were amazingly close in personality and age to my brothers back in Australia. So coming to this family gave me really the best opportunity to start the first 6 months away with greatest ease.

We soon travelled away for a week of snowboarding in Salen, which lies about 6 hours drive north of my town Varberg. This was one of the best weeks over here, which there has been so many of, I had another exchange friend who was staying in my town come up and snowboard with me for the week and we hung out a lot through the first 6 months before he left in July as he was from America, but he'll be a friend I will stay in contact with for sure and see him again in a few years, which is really the point of this exchange. To give a few young people who are brave enough to adventure out into the world, leaving the comfort of their home town and their family for a year and to make those same connections and friendships and love in another part of the world, and as an exchange student it is really the best way to be accepted into a country and community and get the most out of it and make it be your second home. You get to meet other exchange students who you always bond with immediately because you are all going through the same thing and feeling the same way. Then there are those many people you will meet through school and other activities you do while you are here for your year where you make even more connections and friends that you can come back and visit through your life.

But the most fun and once in a lifetime experience I shared with another 74 exchange students was the Euro-Tour from Sweden in 2008, this was surely the best 18 days of my life, and it is definitely something I wish everyone could take part in and experience but that's next to impossible.

I also soon will be moving to my third and final family which is scary to think my last three months is upon me, this year has absolutely ripped by and I can't believe I will be back in Australia soon. But my families this year could not have been better I have met my third family a few times already and they're great people, along with my first and second families who both made me apart of their families and I can't wait to plan another trip back here to visit Sweden and meet everyone again, although my time isn't up.

Through the rest of my stay here I plan to make the most of the year and take as much out of this year as I can to help me with my future, and to those who helped me to my year, and through my year, I thank you so very much.

Will.