



Dear Host Family

I am writing to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about myself and my family. My name is Grant. I am 21 years old and I am studying Physiotherapy at Latrobe University in Melbourne. I was born and bred in a country town called Horsham in western Victoria. I have 3 sisters, Lisa who is older and lives in Sydney, Megan (19), Ashleigh (16) and a pet dog Cody. Ashleigh is currently in Switzerland on a 12month Rotary Youth Exchange program and Megan is also going on a Lions exchange to Italy and Germany later this year.

Currently I am living on campus at University in Melbourne. I am on the leadership team at my college as a mentor. I mentor 15 students, including physios, osteopaths and chiropractors, assisting them in their studies. I go home occasionally but it is a 3 hour drive from uni, so I don't get home as often as I would like.

My parents names are Nanette and Peter. Mum is a midwife at the local hospital and Dad works in a Management position for a pipeline company. We are in a massive drought at the moment and they are building an enormous pipeline (biggest in the southern hemisphere) to deliver a water supply to all the farming regions. It is 12,000km (7456 miles) of pipe replacing 17,000km (10563 miles) of open cut channel. The channel is the most inefficient way to transport water as 98% of the water is lost through evaporation and seepage. The water savings in one years use of the pipeline will be enough to last the community 10 years, so it is a fantastic project. I worked there for 12months in my gap year and also last holidays. I was involved with the construction and installation of fittings.

I enjoy partying with my mates and going out having a good time. Its what I'm all about. I love the outdoors and love spending as much time as possible outside. I enjoy rock climbing, fishing, shooting, camping, motorbike riding, mountain biking, hiking, watersports such as wakeboarding and skiing. I am addicted to snowboarding. I have recently bought my own board and have been carving up the slopes here in Australia. I would love to see what the snow fields are like in Canada , I bet they would be amazing compared to here. I also love riding and racing motorbikes. I race motocross in the Western Region state series which is great fun. I also enjoy going out riding with my mates at motocross tracks or just out in the bush or desert. Dirtbikes are in my blood and I cant get enough of it. I love adrenaline, and my mates bought me a skydiving voucher for my 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday. I haven't used it yet but I will hopefully be doing it soon. I can't wait to jump haha!! People ask why would you jump out of perfectly good airplane? "Because the door is open!"

I always try to keep fit and go to the gym regularly. I used to do a lot of cycling too, and I have participated in the Murray to Moyne Cycle Relay 5 times. It is a relay where teams ride 520km (323 miles) in 24hours to raise money for local hospitals to buy equipment. My personal best in this event is 440km (273 miles) in the 24 hours but the team usually rides it as a relay.

I have only ever been overseas once before. I ventured over to Papua New Guinea and trekked the Kokoda Trail last year. It is rated as one of the toughest treks in the world and it certainly lived up to it. It was an amazing experience to walk the same track that the Australians fought the Japanese on during World War Two. Ever since, I have caught the travel bug and have been eager to go see new places.

I am really excited to meet you and explore Canada. It is an amazing place and looks like a lot of fun.

Bye for now

Grant