

N A J A **The** **ed** **IT** **Or**

This is your Captain speaking

Liebe Freunde,

Firstly - Welcome Stipis of 2010/11! It was only 3 years ago that I was in your position; waiting nervously for my letter of acceptance, then anxiously meeting the rest of the group for the first time, wondering what sort of adventure was ahead of me.

Now it's the 21st of November and you are either sitting at Melbourne airport, on the plane, at Singapore airport, or possibly even in your new family's house. And I can tell you – the experience you are about to embark on will change your life. So make the most of it! Take every opportunity and never hesitate to ask!!! Germany is a fantastic country, wherever you end up. Over 82 million people living in a country not much bigger than Victoria – that's a lot of friends for you to make!

But remember, the experience doesn't stop upon your return to Melbourne! By staying in touch with GASS, you guarantee staying in touch with each other – plus you get to know the awesome GASSie Team. Then we can all share our stories with you after hearing about your own! You will have a chance to do this at the 'Welcome Back' BBQ and debriefing function.

So GASS, it's time to get excited because we have a fresh new group who will return eager to be a part of our amazing family. We are going to make this year bigger and better, to show them just why they should stay around. There are many exciting events to look forward to! The usuals of course (camps, movie and trivia nights etc) and fundraising events (possibly a bake-off) and pretty much any general GASS events that we feel like organising because we love each other =)

A massive thank you to the past GASS Committee, I sure hope Drew is enjoying his time in Berlin at the moment! I look forward to working with the new Committee to make this year awesome, and I look forward to welcoming ALL the Stipis into GASS upon their return.

All the best and
GOOD LUCK!!

Emily Cox
GASS President 2010/2011



Where to Start?

A new group of Stipis + a huge group of GASSies who just finished their exams = a Summer to look forward to, or Winter, as the case may be.

Welcome to Naja, the newsletter of the German Australian Students' Society; hopefully you find it interesting and informative! Thanks to all the stipis for contributing your profiles—now you get to read all about each other so hopefully that makes the plane ride a whole lot more enjoyable. You really do have lots to look forward to: regional days, winter and Berlin camps and of course free travel— let me recommend the Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg as a must see: the world's largest model railway!

After a stressful year at school, enjoy the chance to relax and unwind from all that tedious Hausaufgaben—but remember what Egon told you: you're not here to have fun! (or maybe just keep the fun in moderation ;))

We're all freuing ourselves auf a wonderfully warm summer and you'll be doing the same auf your wonderfully cold Winter: enjoy the pristine whiteness around you and make sure you visit lots of Weihnachtsmärkte. One thing I can definitely say is that all us GASSies are very jealous of you because we all know what a great time you'll have. Make the most of it and don't come back with any regrets.

Viel Spaß und viel Erfolg!

Eddie

Naja Editor 2010/2011



gass  **vic**
German Australian Students' Society

Stipi Photo Hunt 2010

Jensen Lai



Your traditional scavenger hunt involves collecting various paraphernalia during a set time period before presenting them for marking. However, over the course of a 10-week exchange, such items can be easily lost, stolen, damaged or consumed. With this in mind, I've set you the challenge of collecting photos of the items below because let's face it, bringing home Schloss Neuschwanstein just isn't going to happen.

Collect photos of the following items and place them in a Facebook folder (or on a USB stick). 1 point per item, 2 points per completed set.

<p><u>People:</u> Loz wearing a dirndl "Freddy in the morning" Links GASSie GASSie Pyramid of Stipis Sebastian Vettel Ralph Lauren Georg Jensen</p>	<p><u>Food:</u> Rittersport* Lebkuchen Haus Berliner Schwarzewaelder Kirschtorte Spaetzel Schweinshaxe Sauerkraut</p>	<p><u>Beers:</u> Beck's Warsteiner Bitburger Oettinger Krombacher Veltins Sternburg</p>
<p><u>Hauptbahnhof Signs:</u> Photograph as many as you can find. Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Weimar to get you started. 20 signs will be deemed a complete set but you can score points for all photos.</p>	<p><u>Landmarks:</u> Schloss Neuschwanstein Brandenburger Tor Potsdamer Platz Kölner Dom Allianz Arena Nürburgring Schwarzwald</p>	<p><u>Bonus Set:</u> Gemstones Chamberpot Prison Fireworks Phoenix Prince William Halloween Costume</p>

* 5 bonus points if you bring back a packet for Jensen

**Note from the editor: Last year, we collected a very large number (I'd be lying if I told you I knew how many) of photos of Friseurs—and it was awesome.

From the Group Leader 09/10:

Top Ten Tips for Surviving Ten Weeks in Germany

Hello Stipis.

Look at your mum. Now back to me. Now back at your mum... now back... to me.

Sadly, she's not a GASSie. But if she were to man up and go on exchange, you'd have something to talk about when you got back. Look down. Back up. Where are you? You're on a PLANE!

Pissing off the hostesses with your loud, hysterical stipi antics. Don't worry, Lufthansa have only filed an official complaint once and it wasn't while I was group leader. What's in your hand? Back at me.

I have it. It's your iPod. crammed with approximately 423637864 songs – thank GOD, do you have any idea how long that Singapore to Frankfurt flight is?

So you packed this morning. Threw everything out of your wardrobe onto your floor, rammed what you could into a backpack, and packed your passport into your HAND luggage, as your dog/cat/goldfish/chicken/axolotl curiously watched the flurry of nervous excitement emanating from your room.

Squeezed your shampoo into a clear 100mL plastic bottle, got to the airport and NOW you realise you've forgotten your toothbrush. But that's chill, Val is here to save you – with the top ten tips for surviving your exchange...

Top Ten Tips for Surviving Ten Weeks in Germany

Val Rozen



- 1. Vocabulary. Get some.** We tell you that the quality of your German language skill doesn't matter – and for the most part this is completely true. But there are certain times when you want to get it right. Certain separable verbs for example. It also makes a lot more Spaß if you can sprich Denglisch with the richtige Grammatik. “Was hast du am Wochenende gemacht, Bruce?”
“Also, ich bin mit meiner Gastfamilie nach Köln gefahren... und wir haben auch Oma umgebracht.”
Hmmm. If you can't spot the mistake in that one.... Go find Loz, now.
Vocabulary saves lives. You didn't kill grandma, you brought her with you. MITgebracht.
- 2. Nikolaustag.** Those socks that might appear in front of your bedroom door on the morning of 6th December that no one warned you about, filled with nuts and chocolate, like they were supposed to be there. Chill. This is Nikolaustag. Children all over Germany get socks filled with Süßigkeiten, Nuesse, and sometimes fruit (it's a delicacy in Germany in Winter!) - it's all totally normal.
- 3. Frozen lakes.** Try not to bounce on those – sturdy as they look. Cameras have been dropped on them, ankles have shattered because of them, and dignity has been lost – caution is key - unless it's been -20 degrees for three weeks and people are riding bikes over the top of the lake seven abreast.
- 4. Döner.** Available 24/7 for under 4 euro, you'll find this amazing delicacy contains all 4 required food groups for free travel: carbohydrates, vegetables, meat, and yoghurt sauce.
- 5. Glatteis,** or black ice, is a mysterious force, which strikes hardest in the wee hours of the morning during drowsy cycling to one's 8am class. Capable of wrenching your bike out from under you in a matter of milliseconds, Glatteis is renowned among GASSies for leaving you with a bruised butt and battered ego. Solution: ride in a very, very straight line. Turn corners very, very carefully.
- 6. Senk yu for treveling viz deutschebahn.** In the same way that more than 40mm of rain on a given day in Australia constitutes 'flash flooding' (in Seattle this is just, "rain"), Germany may be a "cold country" where there is "snow", but rest assured, more than 3 inches of snow on the railway line, and the ICEs will run to an imaginary timetable. It's Germany, not Finland. If there's heavy snow during free travel, save your host family the panic and aim to be home by 4pm – that way you'll be likely to make it by midnight
- 6. b) Deutschebahn in good weather.** Debatably worse. Although the Metlink timetable is a work of fiction so creative as to rival the imaginative prowess of Tolkien, in good weather, the German train departing at 10:59am, is GONE at 10:59:01am. 10:58am is never a good time to get coffee because your train is departing "around 11am". *(editor's note: Val rang me out of disappointment once that a Deutschebahn train was leaving 45 seconds late.)
- 7. Living in small towns rather than eine Großstadt.** You WILL get bored. Go out and find siblings, sports groups, band practice, school friends to hang out with while your hostie does his/her homework. Don't sit on facebook/skype - your friends ARE going to spend summer on the beach, and have an awesome time, I can tell you now. Deal with it. Go have a MORE AWESOME time doing new, exciting German things. Know you are becoming pastier by the day and much, much worldlier – it will change your perspective on your life, and feel amazing.
- 8. Germany does not have OH&S laws.** Not like we have in Australia. Going toboganning? Do not assume that tight corner will have a super-soft mattress ready to catch you if you don't manage to turn in time. Slow the hell down. Learn to turn in time. There will either be the edge of a mountain, or a bunch of trees if you fly over the edge.
- 8. b) going skiing?** Don't take the laptop/passport/iPhone. Matter cannot be created, nor destroyed – but if it drops out of a parka pocket, do not expect to encounter it again in THIS universe.
- 9. Passport.** You're the kind of person who loses things all the time. DUCT TAPE YOUR PASSPORT to the wardrobe door. That way, no matter how messy your bedroom floor gets, you'll always be able to find it without having to clean up J
- 10. Loz.** Your best bet for surviving your exchange is your group leader. She is there as your big sister/ tour guide/dictionary/Dr Phil. There is no question too stupid, no request too embarrassing, and you should never feel shy about shooting her a text or giving her a call, not just if things go wrong. Even just for a chat while you're bored on a train, even just to hear some non-BBC accented English once in a while – she is there to help. Call her anytime :)

Oh and that toothbrush you forgot? Germany is the land of plenty. If you don't score one on the plane, buy one at the airport in Frankfurt. Anything is possible when you're in Germany with GASS! Have fun guys!!

Meet the Stipis!

Finally what you've all been waiting for! Now that you've got a scavenger hunt to do, and you've got the top 10 ways to make your exchange a breeze, it's time to meet each other! These might be good conversation starters; they might just keep you entertained for the next 24+ hours—but always remember that your experiences are 100% dependent on those with whom you share them!

In no particular order, the Stipis for 2010/2011 are...



Alexandra Mitchell

Year 11, Billanook College

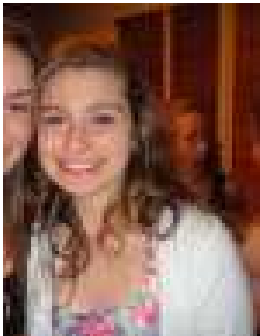
When I grow up I want to be a graphic designer.

Never have I ever done loads of things. *editor's note: then you'll have loads to look forward to in Germany!

While I am in Germany I want to gain a better understanding of the language and culture and make new friends.

Late at night I like to sleep and occasionally cut my toenails.

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is an aeroplane that also happens to have a pilot.



Anita Siragusano

Star of the Sea College, Gardenvale

When I grow up ... "I wanna be famous, I wanna be a star, I wanna be in movies," >> Lol jokes guys. next year, I want to study media and communications at Melbourne Uni, I would like to travel the world, have a good job (one day I might write for Vogue :D), live overseas, earn a lot of money and hopefully learn a few more languages (e.g. French, Norwegian, and Spanish).

Never have I ever eaten a snail or seen snow (so this is going to be a fantastic trip! – A winter wonderland and a white Christmas/Birthday for me!)

While I am in Germany I want to take a piece of the Berlin Wall home with me, eat some nice sausages, buy some really nice clothes, make a snowman... It's Germany!! Do what the Germans' do!

Late at night I like to eat leftovers, ice-cream and do English homework (I have to say, writing at night is quite relaxing.)

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is my USB. My USB is my life. Without it, I would feel like 1GB of me is missing!



Ariane Formosa

Korowa Anglican Girls' School

When I grow up I want to hang out with musos in London by night and work as a human rights lawyer by day!

Never have I ever drunk a whole beer

While I'm in Germany I want to visit as many historical sites as is humanly possible . . . and drink a whole beer.

Late at night I like to listen to music that you've probably never heard of

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is an extra 's' to put into 'desert' and then I'd be very happy :)



Cassandra Nolan

Camberwell Girls Grammar School

When I grow up I want to travel (but where...?)

Never have I ever been proud of the fact that I've read the whole Twilight series.

While I'm in Germany I want to go to a Bundesliga match and eat lots of Plätzchen.

Late at night I like to watch foreign movies on SBS and eat vegemite toast.

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is either a hammock or the cast of Gilligan's Island



Emily Russell

Westbourne Grammar School

When I grow up I want to be a billionaire

Never have I ever been on an international flight!

While I'm in Germany I want to go to a German Music Concert

Late at night I like to... listen to love song dedications

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is Aeroguard



Gabrielle Howard

Firbank Grammar, Year 12

When I grow up I want to... be a hip and funky, wrinkly grandmother who has pink hair and a wicked laugh...but in the meantime... (OMG) there are so many things I want to do. The things that come to mind at the moment are...travel to the moon, compete in the Olympic Games, work in a multi story office building in the city, wear a pencil skirt, high heels and carry a brief case, be a poor, dirty artist who lives in someone's garage, travel the world, cover my ceiling with those glow in the dark stars, learn how to circular breath so I can play the didgeridoo, live in a massive warehouse apartment that has concrete floors and massively high ceilings, never get my drivers licence and ride my bike everywhere...

Never have I ever... Been to Germany! I also have never read any of the Twilight Series, seen any of the movies, watched a show about vampires or entered a conversation about The Twilight Series, Vampire Diaries or Vampires in general (yet...)

While I'm in Germany I want to... hang with all the funky Germans, make heaps of new friends, and experience a white Christmas (yay!)

Late at night I like to.... Do yoga exercises

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is... Probably a whole lot of avocados. You may laugh, but I do have reasons...

They contain heaps of nutrients- healthy fats, vitamins, proteins... i.e. they will keep me alive for longer. They really hurt when someone throws one at you, so could be a useful weapon. They are really yummy! They have a wrinkly hard skin, which can double as an exfoliating bar. Avocado can be applied to the skin as a fabulous all-natural moisturiser. (I mean living on a desert island must be pretty harsh on the skin! Also you need something to put on after all that exfoliating!)

Plus they're dairy and gluten free, so seriously lame and pathetically intolerant people like me can eat them forever and not feel sick!

*editor's note: I was hoping to fit another Stipi on this page. So much for that idea! Keep on reading...



Grace Dwyer

Marist-Sion College Warragul

When I grow up I want to be... travelling the world & going to University

Never have I ever missed an episode of Gossip Girl

While I'm in Germany I want to... live like a German and have a White Christmas

Late at night I like to... be warm and comfy in my Snuggie!

If I were trapped in a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is... my family



Georgette McKeough

Catholic Ladies' College

When I grow up I want to... be a princess character in Disneyland. I think it would be so cool to dress up in beautiful ball gowns and wear elaborate wigs and perform on stage. I think my choice of princess would be either Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* or Snow White. As I assume the chances of this happening are limited, I am quite content with my other goal of becoming a doctor.

Never have I ever... been stung by a bee, broken a bone or been admitted to hospital. Here's hoping I haven't jinxed my chances in Germany.

While I'm in Germany I want to... go to the Christmas markets. Wow, they look so beautiful and fun. Getting to experience Christmas in Germany will be amazing too. It's going to be interesting to look out and see snow com-

pared to sun. I can't wait to indulge in some German sweets as well. I absolutely love Black Forest Cake and Gingerbread, so I think I'm heading to the right place!

Late at night I like to... eat ice cream. There's nothing more luxurious than indulging in triple chocolate ice cream after dinner or whilst seeing a movie. What I love most about eating ice cream at night is that no one can see the chocolate left on your cheeks in the dark!

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is... the genie from Aladdin because we could have sing-a-longs together and if I got bored I could be granted three wishes.



Harrison Watt

Heathmont College

When I grow up I want to... become either a German teacher or translator

Never have I ever... smoked, driven on a main road... yes yes I know it's sad, gone bungy jumping usw...

While I'm in Germany I want to... eat eat eat - German food is amazingly delicious! but I also want to visit my old exchange partnerin Mira in Hesse, whom I haven't seen for 2 years!

Late at night I like to... chat with my exchange partnerin on Skype and have unicycle competitions with

friends in the attempt to get further than 20m

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is... my iPod, we're inseparable





Jason Koutsodontis

Box Hill High School

When i grow up i want to become a professional footballer

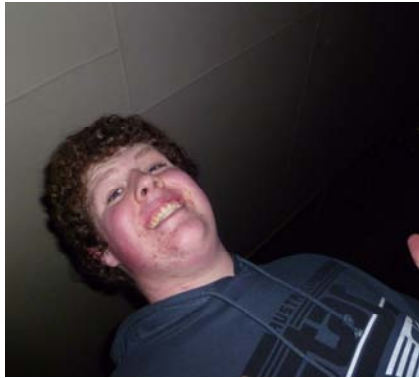
Never have I ever gone to the footy without buying a jam donut

*editor's note: they are *even* better in Deutschland.

While I'm in Germany I want to eat every different kind of German food that I can get my hands on

Late at night I like to go on maccas runs

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is a boat



Joshua Wren

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College

When I grow up I want to... be filthy rich, sail around the world on the Queen Mary 2 and have an Audi R8, but failing this just have a nice job and a nice family.

Never have I ever... seen the Sound of Music, is that such a bad thing???

While in Germany I want to... eat Bratwurst and drink Steins of Bier while sitting around in my Lederhosen, although perhaps this is too stereotypical?!

Late at night i like to... sleep, like normal people do, but the occasional midnight snack wouldn't go astray :)

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is... Bear Grylls, but if he was unavailable, I would take an Audi R8 with a bootload of lasagne... mmm...



Larissa Whitton

MacRobertson Girls' High School

When I grow up I want to... Magically obtain superpowers. Actually, why wait til I grow up? It could happen any time now...

Never have I ever... Eaten anything that originally dwelled under the sea. I believe strongly in the freedom of sea creatures. Leave them in peace!! Let them swim freely, happily communing with other sea beings in their sea neighbourhood... listening to their

hot crustacean band...*note little mermaid reference* Jokes I just don't like seafood...

While in Germany I want to... Learn all of the lyrics to Disco Pogo. Yep. Awesome life goal? I think so.

Late at night I like to... Watch episodes of the IT Crowd on my iPod, quoting each line and laughing at myself as if the punch lines were my own. Sad.

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is...

A phone. With Disco Pogo as my ringtone. Solely so that I could disco it up with the crabs on the sand.



Mitchell Wong
Scotch College

When I grow up I want to become a published science-fiction author and own my own chocolate factory.

Never have I ever bought a dog so I can call it 'dog'. Though I do know someone who did that. Legend.

While in Germany I want to stuff my face with pretzels, go to Salzburg, which is in Austria J and go to the chocolate factory in Calonne.

Late at night I like to raid the pantry for something good, gargle Listerine and watch the David Letterman show.

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is a laptop with Facebook.



Nathaniel Smith
Grovedale College

When I grow up I want to name my pet cat 'Chairman Meow'

Never have I ever been outside of Australia

While I'm in Germany I want to avoid putting on too much weight! (Good luck, I know)

*editor's note: the trick is to keep up the exercise. I ate a *lot* in Germany but my host brother was also a rower, so a nice weight-compromise was reached :)

Late at night I like to think about whatever I want to; just to relax.

If I were trapped on a desert island, the one thing I would take with me is my colour coded skittles collection.

Now, these two very *freche* Stipis forgot to send me their profiles / had better things to do.

That's ok though, I'm sure they are *VERY* cool Stipis.

But, you wonder, how do I start a conversation with them? (and I mean one involving verbal interaction, as opposed to just facebook chat or a text) Simply smile, introduce yourself and ask why they have the following pictures available for anyone to download on facebook...

So, one last game!

Match the Lieblingswörter with their owners! Guess which favourite word belongs to which stipi, then ask them for the stories behind their choices!

- Komisch
- Gegenüber
- Sitzpinkler
- Ohrwurm
- Eichhörnchen
- Zusammengehörigkeitsgefühl, Gemüse und Pampelmuse.
(someone couldn't choose just one, so they needed three!)
- Weißt du das, dass das "das" das meistgebrauchte Wort im Satz ist?
- Hande hoch!
- Gingen
- Fussballweltmeisterschaftendspielschiedsrichter!
- Ausgezeichnet
- Durcheinander
- Dudelsack

Charlotte Krelle



Haley Freer



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Emily Cox



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Naja Editor
Edward Cliff



Check out the awesome GASS web-site for important dates, photos, committee contact details and more!
<http://www.gassvic.org.au>

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