

### **What is the UNSW Aussie Mate Program?**

The Aussie Mate Program is a great way to meet new people and get involved in the UNSW Exchange Program. The program aims to assist in welcoming our new incoming exchange students to UNSW and life in Australia. You don't have to be an exchange student to take part – we are looking for friendly students from all faculties and backgrounds who are interested in getting to know new people (both exchange and other local students), helping them out as they settle into life in Sydney and having fun. We also hope that the program will give future outbound exchange students or returned exchange students a chance to make some connections before going overseas and to maintain them when they return.



**Marrickville Festival**

### **How does it work?**

This coming semester, we are continuing to trial a new system where, instead of one-to-one matching as in previous years, small **groups** of Aussie Mates and incoming students will be formed. The idea is that this will enable incoming students to meet a number of Aussie Mates instead of just one (and vice versa!); also, should one Aussie Mate pull out of the group, the incoming students will still have the support of other group members. Using the information provided on the application forms (due **1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010**) we aim to create groups of people, both guys and girls, with a common interest or area of study. Please note that the incoming students in each group will not all be from one uni or country, but from a variety of places. Group details will be sent out mid January.



**Bundeena day trip**

### **Aussie Mates** are asked to:

- get in touch with group members via email/Facebook prior to arrival
- assist in answering the incoming students' questions
- help them to settle in once they arrive by meeting up with them, showing them around and attending orientation activities together

### **Want to take a leading role?**

In each group, one Aussie Mate volunteer will be given the role of **group organiser**. The group organiser's role is to initiate and encourage regular contact within their group (via email or Facebook at first) and to take a leading role in organising opportunities for group members to meet up (pre-orientation, if members are here, and in weeks 1, 2 and 3 of Semester 1, 2011). Please note that this doesn't need to be anything extravagant – it can be as simple as suggesting you all meet for lunch on Library Lawn. As your group gets to know each other, this role can be shared by all group members, both local and exchange. It is, however, the role of the group organiser to get the ball rolling!

### **Want to help coordinate events?**

Each semester, a small number of Aussie Mate volunteers are chosen as **Chief Aussie Mates**. The Chiefs are Aussie Mates who take a leading role in welcoming the incoming exchange students, organising Exchange Program social events and assisting with promotional activities for the Exchange Office.

Please see **page 4** of this document for more information on the Chief AM Volunteer Program.

## The Aussie Mate Program consists of 3 main types of activities:

Compulsory events are underlined

### 1) Planned introductory activities:

#### 1. Early Arrivers' Afternoon Tea

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 – 3.30pm

Location: (near) the UNSW Exchange Program Office,  
Level 2, East Wing, Red Centre Building



**Scavenger Hunt**

#### 2. UNSW BBQ lunch and scavenger hunt

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 – from 11am

Location: UNSW UniBar, Roundhouse

#### 3. Afternoon activity

TBA – organised by Chiefs

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011

#### 4. Group Activity- To be confirmed

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011

#### 5. Exchange Welcome Function- To be confirmed



**Welcome Function**

### 2) Unplanned group activities:

- Email contact with your group members prior to and as they arrive in Sydney
- Take the students to your favourite places in Sydney
- O-Week activities
- Catch up throughout semester e.g. coffee, lunch, UniBar, social sports, study group, language exchange, etc.

### 3) Activities throughout the semester: Join in with other social events organised by the Chief Aussie Mates.



#### **Rewards for you as an Aussie Mate –**

- Get to know some great new people and see life at UNSW / in Sydney from a different perspective.
- Meet people from your planned/previous Exchange country/university and share local knowledge
- Attend Early Arrivers' Afternoon Tea, Orientation BBQ, Welcome Function – free food provided!
- A nice warm glow knowing you helped welcome someone to Australia

**So!** If you are interested in being an Aussie Mate, please submit the online form and return it to the Exchange Office by **1<sup>st</sup> December, 2010**. You will be sent the names and email addresses of your group members by the end of December. If you don't feel you can make a commitment to the program as an Aussie Mate group member, but would still like to be informed of Aussie Mate social events throughout semester, please join our S1-2011 Facebook group (to be launched December).

## **Some Tips - What incoming Exchangers may want to know**

We give them an introduction to many of these points at our Exchange Program Orientation Sessions, but it is always better to get it from 'the horse's mouth' i.e. another student than from 'the University'.

### **Housing\***

Where are the best areas to live?  
How much does local housing cost?  
Where is the UNSW Housing Office?

**\*Note:** Aussie Mates are not obliged to help incoming students find housing or arrange a place for them to stay.

### **Transportation**

Information on the Sydney transport system - buses, trains and ferries  
What sort of tickets can I use? Which buses / bus stops are Pre-Paid only?  
Where can I get transport information?

### **Shopping+**

Where are some good places to shop for clothing, household items, food etc.? +  
How much should I expect to pay for things?

+Maybe you could plan a shopping outing.

### **Travel**

Where are the best places to travel to in / around Sydney, Australia, Asia?  
Where can I get cheap tickets?  
Camping, Backpacking, Hostels, Hotels and other tips

### **Social Activities**

Where are some good spots to go out?  
What time do things get started?  
Which clubs, pubs, bars are good... social rules?  
What are drinking age rules, ID required, etc?++  
Where can I find info about gigs, festivals, exhibitions, etc.?  
How can I join sports clubs etc.?  
Which UNSW student clubs / societies should I consider joining?

++Remember some students may not be permitted to drink in their country at university age, so they may be novices with alcohol! Be sensible!

### **UNSW**

What is the distinction between lectures, tutorials, seminars, labs etc.?  
Where is this room / building?  
How does the library / photocopying / printing work?  
What are my study commitments?  
Am I studying too much?  
Am I taking good classes?

### **Other – any number of things!**

Health services  
Some Aussie social rules – e.g. dress code; 'buying rounds' aka "shouting" a drink  
What's 'cool' and what's not  
Swimming between the flags, sun protection,  
Bushfires and fire bans while camping etc. (summer stuff)  
The rules to AFL, Rugby Union, League, Cricket, Netball, Touch Footy, etc.  
Ski trips at UNSW etc. etc.  
Where is the...?



# UNSW International Exchange Program 'Aussie Mate' Program

## *What should I do if I also wish to apply to be a Chief Aussie Mate?*

Each semester, a small number of Aussie Mate volunteers are chosen as **Chief Aussie Mates**. The Chiefs are Aussie Mates who take a leading role in welcoming the incoming exchange students, organising Exchange Program social events and assisting with promotional activities for the Exchange Office. This is a great way to network and have a great time with other exchange and UNSW students. It is also a way for you to develop organisation and communication skills that will be of both personal and professional benefit to you – and it looks impressive on a CV! We are looking for students who are friendly, welcoming, motivated and passionate about contributing at an organisational level to the experiences of incoming exchange students at UNSW, as well as to the promotion of the Exchange Program to other UNSW students.

Chief volunteers are asked to contribute at least 30 hours of their time over a semester. At the end of semester, in acknowledgement of their efforts, Chief Aussie Mate volunteers receive a UNSW Bookshop voucher, Certificate of Participation and a reference outlining the activities undertaken. Involvement as a Chief is also recorded on your secondary testamur, an official document you receive at graduation in addition to your academic transcript which details your extracurricular achievements whilst studying at UNSW.



The majority of Chief Aussie Mate duties will take place during the period **8<sup>th</sup> February- mid March 2011**. Students selected for the Chief Aussie Mate program need to be available from **the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011** to help organise and participate in the Aussie Mate activities and presentations at registration sessions for incoming exchange students between **8<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011**. A meeting will be held on the **9<sup>th</sup> February** to run through and plan the Aussie Mate social and promotional events for the Exchange Program being held in February and throughout the semester.

If you would like to apply to be a Chief, please indicate this on the online form and forward your resume (maximum 2 pages) and a 200 word statement explaining why I would be a great Chief AM (please include a list of 5 potential events that you may wish to initiate) to [intex@unsw.edu.au](mailto:intex@unsw.edu.au)

**Good luck!**

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