



MEDIA RELEASE

German leaves World Cup behind to work in Australia

A German teenager has won the chance of a lifetime to live and work in central Australia.

Dominik Keller, 19, is one of four young Germans to win a working holiday in Australia as part of a radio competition in Germany.

Mr Keller first travelled from his home town of Friedberg to Frankfurt before flying to Sydney in May to improve his English, before beginning his employment at the Alice Springs Desert Park earlier this month.

“I was driving my car one day in Germany when I heard the advertisement for the competition on radio and wasn’t so sure at first whether I should enter or not,” Mr Keller said.

“So I spoke to my father, who encouraged me to enter, even though I hadn’t finished my final year of school yet and my time in Australia would begin before my schooling would be complete.

“I filled out the entry form online and the competition was structured in a way that people could go on the internet and vote for the people they felt deserved to win the competition.”

The Planet Radio promotion was a Tourism Australia initiative designed to attract young travellers to the Working Holiday Maker visa scheme opportunities in Australia.

Tourism NT’s Frankfurt office worked closely with a number of Northern Territory tourism operators to secure jobs that would be part of the prize.

Mr Keller, who is passionate about nature and adventure, won the NT-based prize package that includes:

- A two month position at the Alice Springs Desert Park
- Free accommodation at the YHA while working at ASDP
- A three month position at the Frontier Camel Farm at Ayers Rock
- International flight plus one domestic airfare
- An Australian based two week language course
- A Greyhound bus fare

Mr Keller said he had come to enjoy working at the Alice Springs Desert Park during the time he has been there, despite the early starts and cold morning temperatures.

His time so far has included a stint with the park’s botany unit with a move to zoology expected this week.

“The people who work at the park are really friendly and have made me feel very welcome,” he said.

“Alice Springs in general and the Desert Park in particular are quite different to the town of Friedberg near Frankfurt, where I am from so I am enjoying my time here.

“I would be lying though if I said I wasn’t feeling a little homesick right now with Germany hosting the World Cup and I know Germany will win the World Cup.

“But at the same I have always wanted to come to Australia and it is great being here.”

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Media Note – For more information contact Dominik Keller on 8951 8788

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