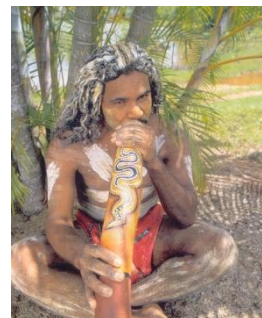


Bendigo, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Dear pen friend,

Hi, My name is Tyler, I am sixteen years old and I'm an Aboriginal. I live in Bendigo, in the state of Victoria, Australia. I live in the bush.

I am very happy to have a new pen friend in France. I hope I will visit your country one day. My mum visited the Vosges years ago, and she says Gérardmer is wonderful, between the ocean and the mountains. It's in the South of France, isn't it?



My parents are divorced. I live with my mother Sarah, 38, and her friend Bob who is 43. He's kind to me and he has got two children, so that I have a half sister, Helen who is very cute and a half brother, Sam, 15. Helen is three and a half years old and I teach her a lot of things.

I think it is very good to have brothers and sisters. I was an only child before Bob and his children come at home. My dad, called Andrew, is still alone. He runs a restaurant in Alice Springs, it's far from Bendigo, and I can't see him very often. My step-father is a pastry-cook. We can taste his delicious cakes everyday. Alas, I'm putting on weight and I have to watch my diet!

My dad is not Aboriginal, but my mum is. She is a Drung person, from a tribal group in New South Wales. She doesn't work, in fact, she has got a lot to do at home, the washing, cooking and so on!

In my spare time I listen to my favourite bands which are the Birds of Tokyo and the Vines. Do you know them? What sort of music do you listen to? I also take care of Helen or I hang out in town with friends. We love picking up girls and chatting with them. I am not allowed to go discos yet... and that is too bad.

I am very proud of my Aboriginal heritage and I can play a didgeridoo, which is a traditional musical instrument made from a tree. I am very interested in my culture. Of course I wear trousers and a T-shirt to go to school!

What about you? Could you tell me about yourself and your family? Where exactly do you live? Is Gérardmer part of Europe? Mother did not tell me!

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Your new friend : *Tyler*

Help : spare time : temps libre // I'm very proud : Je suis très fier // between : entre //  
didgeridoo : instrument traditionnel Australien