

A dirt path leads through a line of trees towards a lake and houses in the distance. The path is in the foreground, and the trees are on either side. The lake and houses are visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

Work Placement in Oz

...as in Australia

How to get there

In Finland we're fortunate enough to have not only free tertiary education, but also schools that SPONSOR students who wish to gain international experience. I can't thank OAMK enough for giving me this opportunity.

Flying to Australia is usually cheapest if you fly from London. Singapore Airlines and Qantas have the best prices. Blue 1 or Ryan Air have cheap flights to London.

You will need a Visa to get into Australia. The easiest option is to get a Working Holiday Visa, which you can apply for over the Internet. Getting it doesn't take long, though it is recommended that you do not buy plane tickets before being approved a Visa.

How to afford getting there

OAMK paid for most of my trip (1000 euro for work experience outside of Europe), as well as gave me some financial aid every month. As my boss was paying me and providing accommodation, I could even afford to do some travelling while in Australia.

SJE Consulting



SJE Consulting is only a small company, employing about 10 persons. The boss, Ron Emptage, understands the importance of giving students work experience, and at the time I was there he was also employing three other students.

SJE Consulting provides services such as engineering and project management.

SJE Consulting



My tasks included drafting, within the structural and the civil areas of engineering.

As a draftsman you draw the preliminary design, which is later inspected and signed by the engineers.

Construction supervision is also part of the services SJE provide, and I was always welcome to join the other employees on inspections.

A few examples of my jobs: residential slabs and footings, pergolas and decks, swimming pools, pedestrian bridges, plans for subdivisions, channels, sewerage and water supply, etc...

Construction supervision



Albury



Albury is situated about 300 km north of Melbourne, right on the border of New South Wales and Victoria. On the other side of the river Murray, in Victoria, lies Albury's twin town Wodonga. Together the two towns have a population of about 100 000.

Travel

Ron was happy to let me travel as much as I wanted (i.e. could afford) while in Australia.

Travel and living in Australia is a bit cheaper than in Finland, but the key thing to remember is the huge distances, as Australia is almost the same size as Europe.

A few photos from my trips...

Magnetic Island





Magnetic Island

Whitsundays

live aboard cruise



The amazingly white sand of Whitehaven Beach



Diving the Great Barrier Reef



The Red Centre



Kata Tjuta



Uluru at sunset



The desert at sunrise



Kings Canyon



New Zealand...

Lake Tekapo



Milford Sound



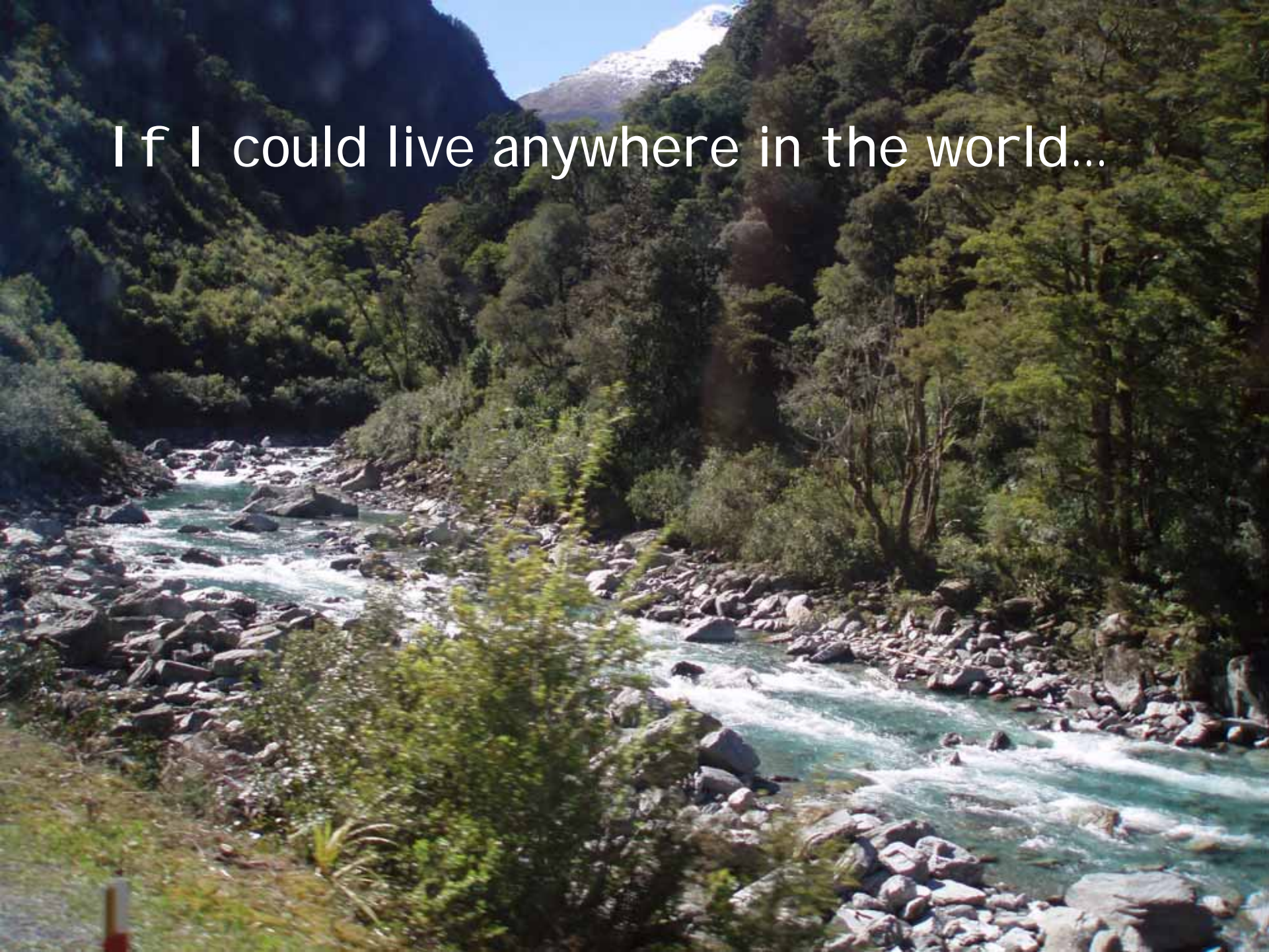
Road to Queenstown



Fox Glacier



If I could live anywhere in the world...



More breathtaking scenery from NZ



Thank You!

Hope you're convinced that going abroad for work placement is an experience you shouldn't miss. This kind of an opportunity comes only once in a lifetime!



Trust me, there's nothing scary about
doing work experience abroad.
Go for it!!!

Thanks to all who made this possible!

I'm very grateful to have been given this opportunity. Thank you OAMK and Matti Alila!

And thank you Ron, I hope you realise just how great an experience this has been for me, and how much I appreciate you taking me on. I never thought I would get to meet such generous and hospitable people as yourself and Patricia. Thank you for making me feel like one of the family.

I'd also like to thank all my other workmates, for always helping me out, and for being such amazing people. Special thanks to the Romanian Aussie who shared her home with me, and became the closest thing I've ever had to a big sister.

Love, Susann
