

MEMORIES OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN
FAMILY HOMESTAY
PROGRAM 2025



Aoyama Gakuin University

**Thank you for giving us a special experience
in Australia for 3 weeks.**

**We spent fantastic days and came back with best memories
with our friends, host families and LINDISFARNE teachers.**



Australia

Sae Ito

This is my first time to study abroad and homestay so I was so nervous and excited.

But I've wanted to come to Australia since my Australia program had cancelled when I was a junior high school student because of Covid 19.

After this program, Australia became one of my favorite places even though I was only 3 weeks.



We didn't expect about the cyclone but it makes our program rare. Because of the time I could spend much time with my host mother and roommate so we could get to know each other. Host mother has a lot of hobbies and friends so I could have a fulfilling weekend and experience Aussie's life style. We cooked sweets, played tennis, card game, went to beach and watched reality show every night. Actually, I had more things to do on weekends than on weekdays. Sometime, we couldn't communicate well because of the language barrier but as the time went by, it gradually got resolved. I appreciate to welcome us as an exchange student.

At school, there were much variety of programs. We went to many places and experienced as many as I can't write here all of them. One of my favorite experiences is surfing at Rainbow Bay beach. It was too difficult and tough for me. But this was my first time so this became an unforgettable memory.

Also, the three school teachers are so friendly and they always helped me when I couldn't understand English or what to do. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet these wonderful teachers.



I had a best 3 weeks in Australia so I was sad when I came back to Japan. The 3 weeks went by in a flash and I feel it was like a daydream. I would like to thank for all people who helped and involved with me during my stay. From now on, I will improve my English more and come back to Australia again. Thank you.

My Experience in Australia

Moeka Takagi

The three weeks I spent in Australia were an important experience for me. It was my first visit to Australia, and I was surprised by the kindness and cheerfulness of the people. The scenery was beautiful and the abundant nature was impressive. The people of Australia were respectful to the Aboriginal people and other cultures. I was impressed by their respect for different cultures. Australians seem to value their lives and it gave me an opportunity to think about my own work-life balance.



Unfortunately, a cyclone hit Australia, but it was a special experience. Thanks to the cyclone, I was able to play card games with my homestay family at home and communicate with them a lot. I learned new values by spending time with my homestay family. In Japan I often spent time looking at my phone or watching TV, but in Australia I spent time baking cakes and playing card games. It was a fresh life for me as a university student and I felt like I was a child again.

In school life, I interacted with Australian students. The students were friendly and I enjoyed communicating with them. I remember that I had a cooking class with the students.

I am glad that I was able to participate in this program. I was able to go to many different places during the program. I was able to surf, see Australian animals, and have other experiences that I could not have in Japan. These are my precious memories. I would like to visit Australia again someday.



Colorful Memories in Australia

Moe Kariya

The days I spent in Australia in this homestay program were invaluable. It is impossible to express in words how precious the memories I made, how many things I learned, and how much I thank my host family, teachers, friends, and people involved in this program. This experience was my first time overseas and studying abroad, and homestay. I stayed with a host mother who works in Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School as a teacher and a host father who is going to be a teacher. I could learn a lot of things about English grammar, words used in Australia, and the unique culture from them.



We talked and discussed similarities and differences between Japan and Australia every day.

I was impressed and influenced by the atmosphere in Australia. First day in Australia, I felt that everything was colorful in Australia. Nature, landscape, birds, the clothes people wear, houses, food, and so on. I will never forget the landscape of the blue ocean and blue sky of the beach I

walked with my host family many times. Not only seen colors, but everything in Australia the mind and energy were colorful. I felt like I had forgotten some most important things in life. To enjoy every day and every second, feel happy with precious friends and family, and love nature. In my daily life in Japan, I tended to face my phone and try to escape from reality. However, I realized that it was just a waste of precious time. I strongly felt I want to live with that positive and happy mind, enjoy everyday life, and love nature like people in Australia.

My host family welcomed me into their home as a member of the family and treated me as their real daughter. We experienced a direct hit from Cyclone Alfred. The school was closed for safety, and the schedule was changed completely. I spent a few days at home all day. However, the cyclone gave me more time and opportunity to communicate with my host family. We



watched movies, dramas, and anime, and talked about lots of things every night. I think this unfortunate incident made our bond tighter and made us more like a real family. In addition, I had activities like BBQ, shopping, beach walk with students staying in the host family's house near mine in this program, and the children of the host families. That was like a big family.

Three weeks in this program went by so fast. In this program, I could improve my English skills, live with my host family like a real family, and feel the air in Australia. I will never forget the days in Australia. I will definitely go to Australia to meet my host family again.

My First step into the World: Studying in Australia

Miho Kohashi

During my spring vacation, I had the opportunity to visit Australia as part of an Aoyama standard class. It was my first experience studying abroad, and I stayed with a host family in Banora Point, New South Wales, for about three weeks. I joined the program with about twenty Aoyama University students.

On weekdays, we attended a local grammar school. One of our teachers set up a special class only for Aoyama University students, so I didn't have many chances to talk with local students. Although I felt a little disappointed at first., I was able to learn a lot about Australian culture, including its history, language, nature. The time I spent there was full of excitement and discovery!



Also, we went to several places on excursions. One of the highlights was Tropical Fruit World. There, I tasted some fruits that I had never seen before, like “Achacha.” Its inside looked like lychee. I was unsure if I would like it, but to my surprise, it was very sweet and delicious! We also explored the area on a special vehicle. The guide showed us various fruits, and explained how to grow them. We even experienced cracking macadamia nuts. It was harder work than I expected, but the



fresh nuts were so delicious!

Sunday mornings at a church were also precious to me. I met many people from

different backgrounds. All of them were kind to me and welcomed me warmly. They also shared their thoughts and gave me valuable advice about my future. Thanks to them, I had the chance to think deeply about myself.

On the holidays, I spent a wonderful time with my host family. One day, we went shopping and bought some snacks to eat while watching movies at home. Australian snacks, especially crisps were so delicious, so I wished those snacks were in Japan. On another day, we brought them and relaxed near the beach. I miss my host family.

The homestay program in this spring was a very meaningful time for me. I will remember the beautiful places I visited, the kind people I met, and the delicious food I ate there. My time in Australia gave me not only knowledge, but also memories and self-reflection that I will keep in my mind.



Lovely memories in Australia

Moeko Sakashita

This is my first homestay experience. At the beginning of this trip, I was very nervous. But it was very exciting, and three weeks passed in the blink of an eye. Now my mind has changed that it was so good choice this program. Making relationships with people abroad is a greater thing than I thought before.

I spent with one of my classmate at our host family's house. Our host family live in country side. There are a lot of farms, so we can see a lot of animals. I love nature, so I love their village. And also, they have three dogs. It was my first time living with dogs. At first, I was scared of it, but they made opportunities to talk with our homestay family. Our host family was very gentle elderly people. They try talk with us as hard as they can. And they taught and show us many things about Australia. It was the most exciting learning experience of my life.



I learned about Australia at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School too. Teachers made opportunity to excursion so I tripped around Gold Coast. Walking around is a good way to learn about culture. While I was walking, I watched and considered. When I got home, I asked my host family questions about what I saw things. This way to learn is fit me. So, I started thinking "I want to speak

more English to learn more." This mind helps my motivation to study English now.

It was also an important experience at the church. I went to All Saints' Anglican Church. I wanted to interact with Christian around the same age because I am a Christian. Even though I couldn't meet young people, I could interact with elderly people. They welcomed me and prayed for me together. They also gave a present on the final day.

I am very happy to have chosen this trip now. I keep in touch with my host family. The trip cost is not cheap, but I think this experience is priceless. These people who I met in Australia is a memory of a lifetime.

My Australian Memories

Yuzuka Nakajima

I joined a three-week homestay program in Australia. Before I went, I was a little nervous because I was not good at English. But when I met my host family, I felt safe and happy. I had many great experiences, and this homestay became one of the best memories in my life.

My host family was Cait and Robbie. They were both teachers, and Cait was an English teacher. She helped me with English while we talked, and I

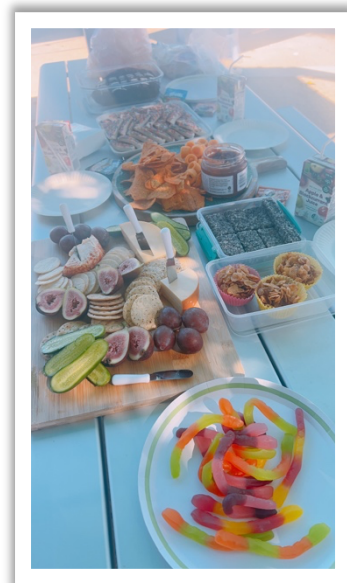
learned many useful words and expressions. They were very kind and friendly. I felt like they were my Australian parents. Cait cooked wonderful meals every day, like Italian, Greek, Asian, and even Japanese food such as ginger pork. Every meal was delicious.



They took me to many places, and we even swam in the river together. One day, we had a picnic by the beach. My host family prepared some Australian sweets like Lamingtons and Pavlova. They were very delicious, and I had a great time. I also went to a big shopping mall. I bought many accessories and enjoyed seeing the fashion style of Australia, which was different from Japan. I also

joined a surfing class in the school program. It was my first time, but I could stand on the surfboard and go to the shore. I had to change clothes outside in a public area. Even women were doing that. I was surprised by this cultural difference.

One of the most interesting experiences was visiting two churches. The first one was a Catholic church that Robbie usually goes to. It was a quiet and special place. Many people were kneeling and praying seriously. The second church was Protestant. It was like a concert. People were singing together, moving their bodies, and raising their hands. I felt both churches were very different



from Japanese churches. But in both places, I saw that people showed their belief in their own strong way. That made me think deeply about religion and culture.

During our stay, a big cyclone came. It was the first time in 50 years. I saw people on TV who went to the ocean to watch the waves and then ran away. It was shocking. I thought that Australian people might not be familiar with natural



disasters like cyclones. We also drove in heavy rain to visit Robbie's parents. I saw golf courses turned into lakes and many trees that fell over. At their house, we prayed before eating and made the sign of the cross. It was my first time to see this, and I was happy to learn about Christian family life.

I want to say thank you to my host family, Cate and Robbie. They were always kind and warm, even when the

cyclone made things difficult. Because of them, I now love Australia more than ever. I hope to visit them again someday.

My best memories in Australia

Rio Nishizato

I went to study in Australia in March. I have two best memories there.

One of the best memories was every dinner. My host mother made meals for dinner every day. I sometimes helped her because I liked to cook. I especially liked lamb. I had never eaten it until I went to Australia, so I was surprised that it was so delicious. I ate sausages and lasagna on other days. She served jasmine rice for dinner in the first day. I can remine every dinner because I took pictures every time. I made Japanese curry and noodles for my host family. I taught them how to use chopsticks at that time. It seemed difficult for them to use chopsticks.

Also, I enjoyed my friend's birthday party and farewell party. I was able to eat a lot of feasts.

Another best memory was surfing. Of course, I was able to various activities. For example, going to Tropical Fruits World, seeing Australian animals, going shopping and making Australian biscuits. I especially remember surfing experience. I have never experienced it before, so I was worried about whether I could do it well at first. However, I could do it well than I expected. I thought the reason why I could do surfing well was I could snowboard. Surfing is similar to snowboarding.

There was a problem. I got very sunburned. The sun in Australia was stronger than I had imagined. The sunscreen came off because I was at sea.

I was glad to be able to stay in Australia. I want to go there again to meet my teachers and host family again.





My Homestay Experience in Australia

Nagomi Hayashida

I studied abroad in Australia for three weeks. It was my first time studying overseas, and I really enjoyed every day.

In the first week, it was difficult for me to listen to English for me. I wasn't used to the Australian accent, and sometimes I couldn't understand what my host mother said. However, I gradually started to understand more. I also learned a lot of Australian slang. During my stay, a cyclone hit, and we had to stay at home for about five days. Although we couldn't go outside, we enjoyed our time indoors by making Lamingtons and watching movie.

In the second week, I visited many places. One of the most fun experiences was going to Byron Bay. It was hard to walk from the lighthouse, but I was happy to see three wild koalas. I also enjoyed shopping near the beach. The açai bowl I had at a café was delicious. The art gallery left a strong impression on me. Margaret Olley's atelier was messy but so



beautiful.

In the final week, I made many memories with my host family. I played tennis with my host mother's friends and walked along the beach. At home, I played card games, watched TV, and cooked with my host mother. I really admire my host mother's healthy lifestyle. She inspired me to exercise every day too. She took me to many places and taught me not only English, but also about daily life in Australia.

Last three weeks were a special experience for me. I learned not only English, but also many other things as well. I'm grateful to all the people I met in Australia. "Life goes on." I would like to make the most of this experience in my life.



My memories in Australia

Moka Saito

The three weeks I spent studying abroad in Australia were the best experience I've had. I was very nervous before we met our host family. But my host mother hugged me as soon as I met her, so my nervousness and anxiety disappeared quickly. We went to school on weekdays. On weekends and after school, we spent time with our host families. My host family was very kind. They took me to places I wanted to go and gave me food I wanted to eat. Thanks to them, I had a very comfortable three weeks. I wanted to stay in Australia longer.

During my stay, I learned two important things. First, I learned that it is important to try to communicate, even if my English is not perfect. Second, I learned that understanding different cultures makes the world bigger and more exciting.

This experience gave me more confidence and made me want to challenge myself more. I really appreciate my host family, teachers, and everyone I met in Australia. I will never forget this wonderful experience.



My great experience in Australia

Natsuki Yamasaki

It was the first time for me to visit Australia. I was very nervous on my way to Narita airport because I've not experienced staying at foreign country for three weeks without my family. However, I was excited to this three week when I got to Brisbane airport.

I had many impressive and happy things. First, I was impressed by beautiful beaches. The water was so clear and the color was emerald green. I won't forget the first day of seeing the beautiful view at Rainbow Bay. Second, lamb meat was more delicious than eating it in Japan. I've not had it in my house but I had many times to eat such as steak in Australia. I couldn't expect that it was very delicious before eating. I like it from this experience. Third, I had lovely birthday in Australia. My host mother planed my birthday party and gathered guests like her friends and my friends. She also made invitation letters and I gave them to all of my friends and teachers. They celebrated my birth and I got lovely birthday presents from them in this party. I also eaten birthday pancakes and Feary breads that were one of Australian culture on my birthday. I could experience precious and heartwarming day.



In my Australian life, I tried to communicate with Australian people not only to improve my English skills but also learn several things about Australia. They always talked with me friendly. When I have questions, I asked my host mother and she told me wide variety of knowledge related to it. For example, I learned many slangs such as breaky and barbie. The reason why they use these words is that they prefer to use shortened ones. Through this communication, I could open our hearts each other.

In addition, I learned Aboriginal culture. I had heard it before going there but I hadn't known in detail. I learned the history of Aboriginal at school and museum. I found

that many Australian people cherished this culture and they are trying to inherit to later generation. I could understand it deeply.

Lastly, I got beautiful memories and connections in Australia. I am grateful for all supports and meeting my host family and friends.

Relationships with beautiful people in Australia

Ayaka Shinada

Throughout my journey in Australia, I was able to spend wonderful time full of joy, excitement, new learnings and love thanks to my host family, friends, teachers and beautiful people and places of Australia. My precious experiences which made me learn a lot of things in Australia consist of two aspects: the first one is school experience,



second one is homestay experience.

In my school experience, I went to Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School on weekdays and the most memorable moment was interacting with students at that school. Even though our classes were separated from other students' classes, we were able to have several opportunities to interact with them. For example, we visited Pre-school and

talked to students about Japanese traditional cultures. I was so impressed when they were so curious that they asked me a lot of questions and helped me with cleaning all the stuff at the end. Also, it was so adorable that they sung a song for us in return of our singing "frog song". In addition to this opportunity, we had time to make origami or bake Anzac Biscuits together. However, even just passing each other in the hallway, they sometimes talked to me and gave a friendly smile. When my roommate and I got lost and were not sure how to go home, a student helped us and taught us gently the correct way. Such experiences taught me the joy of interacting with people who are the same age over nationalities or cultures and possibilities that we can help and connect with each other with compassion and kindness. I love beautiful students in Australia so much and eager to see them again and know about them more.

Secondly, in my homestay experience, both time at home and travel with my host family were enjoyable and unforgettable. For travels, my host mother took us to local supermarkets, beach, preschool where she works at, zoo, op shops and so on. On weekdays after school. On weekends my host sister and her boyfriend took me to surfer's paradise, lock pool Hasting point and so on.



Every place they took me to was so beautiful and I still miss that beautiful beach. Even while driving or having a meal on the way to the destination was so fun. We still have



some places we want to go together, so we hope to see each other and travel together again. On the other hand, we spent a lot of time at home due to the cyclone Alfred. We were anxious about the cyclone because it was such an unusual situation for everyone. Indeed, it did great damage to some places by causing floods and blackouts. However, it also brought us special experience in which we could have enough time to talk and get to know each other and establish good relationships. Usually, my host family is busy with their jobs on weekdays, but this time, thanks to cyclone Alfred, we could spend a lot of time

chatting, cooking and watching movies together. In return to their cooking for me, I cooked Japanese food, “soba”, “udon” and “tempura” for them, which they were very happy to. Such interaction with love and care made us all feel comfortable and happy. I sincerely feel thankful for my host family’s love for us. I would like to keep these relationships throughout my life.

In general, I was so impressed by realizing that we could build wonderful relationships over any differences during this trip. I would like to remember this and keep exploring any places around the world.

Three Unforgettable Weeks in Australia

Shinomiya Momoka

I joined a three-week study program in Australia. It was my first time going abroad. I had wanted to study overseas since high school, and because of COVID-19, I couldn't do it until now. I was very happy that I could finally join this program.



During my stay, I met many kind people, my host family, classmates, teachers, and students from Lindisfarne. Thanks to them, I had a great time and made wonderful memories. I wanted to make the most of this chance, so I tried hard not to speak Japanese. I was especially happy when I could talk about love and relationships in English. It was a small thing, but it made me feel more confident.

Australia is very different from Japan in many ways, but I found it to be a beautiful and interesting country. My best memory was the time I spent with my host family. During my stay, there was a big storm—people said it was the biggest in 50 years! Because of the storm, school was closed for a few days. But my host family took me on a trip to Warwick and Tenterfield, which are inland towns. We stayed there for three or four nights. If there was no storm, I couldn't have had that experience.

Even when there was no school, I had fun with my host family. We cooked together, played board games, and talked a lot. Every day was full of joy. My host family always thought about how to make me happy, and I think I was very lucky to stay with them. I believe I had more special experiences than many other students, and I'm very thankful for that.

I feel that I couldn't have asked for a better host family. They were so kind, warm, and fun. This study trip was very special for me, and I want to say thank you to everyone who supported me.



My sweet memories in Australia

Kokoro Suzuki

1.Host family

I really thank my host family because they were looking after me so well and there were three cute dogs.They helped ease my nerves.

My host mother was a very strong woman who not only helped us with our studies, but also taught us a lot about life

Through this homestay, I was able to deepen my understanding not only of English but also of other cultures, and I have made some unforgettable memories.



2.Beautiful nature

I was really impressed by the beautiful nature and animals in Australia.

I was particularly impressed by the beauty of the beach! I visited Byron Bay on an excursion. It was such a beautiful beach .The ocean was a beautiful blue, there were dolphins and the weather was great!

I had an unforgettable day, feeling the beauty of nature and laughing a lot with my friends.

3.Every day was great!

I really enjoyed my homestay experience. I think I've grown and developed through this experience!

My wonderful memories in Australia

Yura Hirai

I spent wonderful time for three weeks in Australia. It was my first time to study abroad. Therefore, I had a lot of anxiety. Even more unfortunate, this year saw that first cyclone in nearly 50 years. However, thanks to friendly people and a good environment, I had a good time. Everything that happened was new to me. Moreover, I made new friends in this project.



The most beautiful view during my stay in Australia was from the Skypoint in Surfers Paradise. I could see the beautiful sea cityscape of Australia. Surfers Paradise was the only place I ever went far away with my host family. However, I could not go to Skypoint with my host family because their five-year-old boy was not good at heights. Therefore, I took a lot of pictures and showed them to my host family after I got off the observation deck. I was excited to see the scenery, which I rarely see in Japan.

My host family was really active and busy. Kids went out to play basketball and ride their bike if they have free time. In addition, boys play football very well, and I watched their games. My host family had a pool at their house and they used to jump in the pool.

Moreover, my birthday was during the homestay. My host mother prepared a chocolate cake and my host family and their cousin's family celebrated with me! It was very delicious and I was so happy!



Through this project, I would like to improve my English more and go to a lot of foreign countries! I want to do my best to make opportunities to talk with foreigners.

Best experience in my life

Hiromi Iwai

My three weeks in Australia were the best experience of my life. I was initially quite nervous because it was my first time in a foreign country. When I finally met my host family, I was not very good at English, but I tried to give them information about myself and they tried their best to listen to my English, which made me feel at ease. This was the beginning of my best three weeks.

My host mother, Zoe, had three children. Odin, the oldest son, Halcyon, the eldest daughter, and Ashera, the second daughter. I had no siblings, so I felt like I had a brother. The most memorable moments of the three weeks were the Cessna ride, rock climbing, and the trip to Water World. It was especially memorable for me because I love airplanes and when I was in junior high and high school, I studied flight simulators as a club activity. The view of Australia from above was breathtaking. Rock climbing was my first experience after coming to Australia. It was much harder than it looked, and I had to climb and fall down many times, but I felt a sense of accomplishment each time I climbed one by one. At Waterworld, I was shocked to see huge slides and pools that I would probably never see, let alone ride, in Japan. Everything is huge in Australia. It is not only the size of things, but also the generosity of the Australian people, who accept us, foreigners, as they do the whole country. I will definitely visit Australia again.

I pray that God will richly bless all those who were involved in this program. See you again!



Unforgettable memories in my life

Haruka Adachi

This experience was my first time studying abroad and homestay. I'm shy and love my family, so I was full of anxiety about not being able to see my family for 3 weeks. However, the experience there was so wonderful that I forgot my worries. Among them, I would like to express my gratitude to my host family, the friends in the same program I spend together, and the teachers.

Now that I have finished studying abroad, I love host families so much that I can confidently say that they are my second family. They were always on my side and treated me like a real daughter. They always thought about something for me and talked about everything with consideration. The host father who is always full of humor and makes me laugh a lot and entertains me, the host mother who is always kind, naughty, and inclusive like a mother, and the son who is always cool, kind at any time, and a little shy and cute, they have a big impact on the greatness of my stay there. I have many memories with them, but the most important memory is that they celebrated my birthday with a surprise. It was an irreplaceable moment that made me so happy that I cried. We promised to meet again, and I'm still in touch with them, so I want to introduce them about Japan someday.



enjoyed my casual daily life so much.

Next, I would like to express my gratitude to my friends who have been supporting each other during this stay, because I am sure that without them, it would not have been such a fun memory. We met through this program, we always spent time together and laughed a lot. If I hadn't been with them, I wouldn't have

The cyclone came and the school was closed, and from the daily life where I couldn't see them for a while, I still remember the happiness when school started, and we could have a fun conversation.

I am glad that I was able to make important friends in a short period of 3 weeks, and I'm very grateful to the three people who got along with me, and I hope to continue our relationships in the future.

Lastly, the teacher who was involved with us and the other members who participated in the same program were the best.

All the teachers treated us in a friendly and warm way from the first time I met them, so it didn't take long for me to fall in love with them. Because they were always so kind and welcoming and accepting, I was able to enjoy speaking English without the fear of making mistakes. I always had fun and was happy when I talked with them.

Also, all members of this program are so good people. I'm sure that I was able to make such wonderful memories thanks to all the people who participated in this program and were involved with it.

I'm not good at trying new things, so this study abroad trip was a big challenge for me, but I'm really glad that I took the courage to participate. Not only did I learn a lot and improve my English skills, but it also became a treasured memory that I will never forget in my life. I would like to continue improving my skills for the future and use this experience to grow.



My homestay in Australia

Sota Nakazawa

The three weeks I spent on the Gold Coast were some of the most memorable of my life. The main reason I applied for this program was to see if I could live in a country other than Japan. I thought the homestay program was perfect because it was much closer to real life than a dormitory stay. Naturally, I wanted to improve my English skills, so I made an effort to speak in English even if people around me were speaking Japanese during my stay.



I was able to have friendly relationships with my host family and local students. They made me aware of various cultural differences and similarities between Japan and Australia. The biggest difference I noticed was in labor. When I told the local students that I was working for

\$12 an hour, they said it was less than a junior high school student's fish and chips job, and I was surprised to hear that nighttime road workers were paid about \$80 an hour. However, the thing that left the biggest impression on me during my stay was the hurricane, which made contact with the Gold Coast for the first time in half a century, and had a major impact on my stay. My house lost power for about 3 days and internet connection for about a week. It was indeed a powerful typhoon, but to

see a city so damaged by a storm that even Tokyo residents experience once or twice a year made me realize how good the infrastructure is in Japan.

Despite all of this, the nature, culture, and people of Australia have given me a lot, and I have gained confidence that I can live in a country other than Japan.

Finally, this program was an invaluable experience for me. I would like to thank all the teachers, friends, and host families who were involved in this study abroad program.



A valuable homestay experience

Haruka Kamiya

This time, I decided to participate in the homestay program because I thought that this was something I could only do now, not as an adult. Before participating in this program, I had done homestay in Australia, but participating as a university student with a wider range of experiences and different ways of thinking was the perfect opportunity to gain a lot of new knowledge. This time, due to bad weather, I had to just stay at home for a few days. It felt very boring, but I got to experience real Australian life that I normally wouldn't be able to experience. Sometimes I wanted to go home, but thanks to the warm support of my host family, my life in Australia became an unforgettable experience.

What I thought was great about this program was not only that I could attend a local school, but also that because I lived in the suburbs, I had almost no contact with Japanese people. It was helpful not only in improving my English skills, but also in learning about foreign cultures. My host family came to Japan in February of this year, and I was very happy that they were interested in Japan and wanted to learn Japanese.

The most memorable thing about these three weeks is seeing three wild koalas and a group of dolphins. The Australian teacher who was in charge of us there



said he had never seen so many wild koalas! We were very lucky.

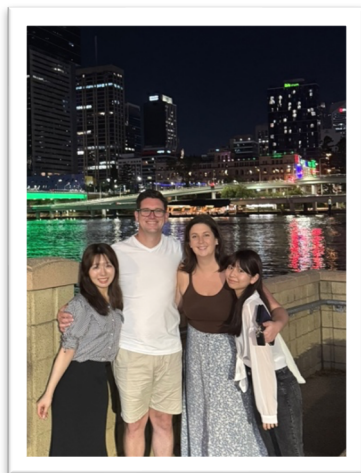
I met many different people and learned a lot during these three weeks. It was a great experience for me. I want to go to Australia again.

My Memories in Australia

Haruna Kitayama

The three weeks I spent in Australia were a very precious experience for me. I was very nervous before going to Australia because I was not confident in my English skills. However, my nervousness and anxiety disappeared soon. Because every day I had many opportunities to talk about what I did to my schoolmates and my host family. I felt that I didn't need to speak correct English here.

Firstly, in the school program, we saw koalas and learned about Australian history. One of the most memorable experiences was surfing. I had never surfed before, but I was really looking forward to doing it because I like physical activities. The instructor was very kind and taught us how to do it. I enjoyed it so much, so I would like to surf again in Japan this summer.



Secondly, I really appreciate to my host family. I always enjoyed spending time with them, and they made me feel relaxed. All the food they cooked for me was delicious. They taught me how to make the food more delicious when we cooked together. When the cyclone came, we played card games, ball games, and watched TV together. They also had many other activities to keep us entertained. My most memorable experience was the boat ride in Brisbane. We were able to see the beautiful night view of Australia.

Surprisingly, we also happened to see fireworks.

Finally, I learned a lot of things during the three weeks I spent in Australia. I thank the teachers at the school, my host family, friends, and my parents for allowing me to participate. I hope to go to Australia to see them again.



I still call Australia my Second home

Eisei Kumagai

I spent three unforgettable weeks in the Gold Coast, Australia, as part of a homestay program. It was my first time visiting the country, and everything felt new and exciting. During my stay, I learned not only English but also about Australian culture, nature, and, most memorably, the warmth of its people.

One of my greatest memories was the time I spent with my host family. At first, I was extremely nervous — I had never stayed in a stranger's house before, and I had to do everything in English. However, my host family welcomed me not just as a guest, but as a real member of their family. They were kind, patient, and always supportive, even though I sometimes struggled with their strong Australian accent.

Among all the memories, the most unforgettable was experiencing a cyclone. The storm kept us from going to school or even stepping outside. Despite that, my host family did their best to make me feel at home. We spent the time watching Netflix, playing board games, and even learning English together. After the cyclone passed and I stepped outside for the first time in days, I felt an overwhelming sense of freedom and joy that words can hardly express.

The kindness of the Australian people left a deep impression on me. In Japan, people tend to be less outgoing in public. In contrast, Australians talk to strangers in supermarkets, chat on buses, and share a strong sense of community. I fell in love with this open, friendly culture.

This experience sparked my passion for English and for connecting with people from different backgrounds. Since returning to Japan, I've made an effort to speak with international students in English. I'm determined to keep studying, and one day, I hope to return to Australia. If possible, I'd love to welcome my host family or new friends to Japan and share with them the same joy and excitement I experienced there.



Day of learning about intercultural understanding.

Haruka Yuzawa

It was my first time going abroad. I was very nervous, moreover, I had never done a homestay before. I could hardly sleep on the plane. The next three weeks there were full of surprises. One of the most memorable days was when it was raining due to a cyclone. I could not see my phone because the electricity was cut off and the Wi-Fi was not working. In this situation, a family member had taken out Jenga and was about to start a game. I decided to join them in that game as I was also out of time on my hands. But when I sat down at the table, mother said, “you need something to drink,” and I wondered if Jenga needed a drink. I poured myself a Coke and sat down again. That question was soon resolved after we started



the game. I drew one Jenga and there was something written on it: “two drinks”. I was very surprised. When I looked closer at the Jenga box, it said “drink game” and I understood everything. I belong to a club in Japan. I was very surprised to see Australian families playing the game that my seniors sometimes

play. Some of the Jenga had nothing on it and some had instructions on it, and I only had to drink twice, but my sister's boyfriend Kyle had to drink a lot of alcohol according to the instructions. One of the funniest things that happened to me was playing a game. The instructions were to have a toast and a drink with the person next to you, which meant that Mother's boyfriend Mark and Kyle had to drink. Kyle was very kind and gentle, so he drank a solid drink. But Mark only pretended to drink and put his glass on the table. It was interesting that he even did such a thing, just like the Japanese. Incidentally, Kyle threw up in the toilet that night.



I decided to study in Australia because I was looking forward to learning about Australian culture, life and history. I wanted to learn about the differences between Australia and Japan. However, I found it more interesting to find similarities between Australia and Japan during my study

abroad. It doesn't matter how small or trivial they are. I am currently studying in an English class using a textbook on "intercultural understanding". The textbook describes various conditions and goals for "intercultural understanding". But I already have my own answers to these questions. It is about finding commonalities between any culture. From that day onwards, I feel that my family and I have become closer. We made cookies together and discussed Australian slang. I can't say I have very good English conversation skills, but I was able to get on well with them. That was because of what happened that day. By looking for commonalities even in different cultures, you can feel closer to people. I felt that this is an important part of any relationship with people.

Surrounded by beautiful nature

Hakuyo Suzuki

My family took me to a variety of nature. Multiple beaches, large rivers, nature parks, etc. In the morning we went to school and afterwards it was a great refresher for me to go and see nature. My host father was very knowledgeable about plants and animals and taught me their names and interesting ecology. My host family's kids actively invited me to play with them. For example, let's go on a water slide, play soccer, collect shellfish, etc. Everyday was peaceful and aggressive. Every day is peaceful and aggressive, and I have always wanted to live like this in Japan. It is scary at night, though, because it is not safe.

The most memorable of them all was fishing. My host family understood my love of fishing and took me fishing twice during the three weeks. On the second day, we went to the rocky shore. We fished for black sea bream and whitebait using the seaweed we had prepared in advance and seaweed from the rocky shore as bait. I thought it was a very good environment for fishing.



Lastly...

We are grateful to the people who helped us in Australia.

Thank you so much.



See ya!

