

AUSTRALIAN  
CHRISTIAN  
FAMILY  
HOMESTAY  
PROGRAM  
2025



MEMORIES OF  
AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 27 to MARCH 21

AOYAMA  
GAKUIN  
UNIVERSITY

*Thank you for giving us a wonderful three  
weeks in Australia!*

*We had a great time and came home with  
happy memories with our friends, host  
families, and Lindisfarne teachers.*



## *Australia*

Kaho Ishii

The three weeks I spent in Australia were one of the most meaningful experiences in my life. It was my first time studying abroad, so I was nervous at first, but at the same time, I was really excited to start this new journey.

One of the best parts of my stay was living with my host family. They were always kind and made me feel comfortable from the beginning. I wanted to share something from Japan with them, so I cooked karaage and oyakodon. I was a little worried about whether they would like it, but they enjoyed it a lot and even said it was delicious. That moment made me really happy, and I felt proud to introduce Japanese food to them. Cooking together and eating together became very special memories for me.



Another unforgettable experience was surfing during a school program. It was my first time trying surfing, so it was quite difficult, and I fell many times. However, I kept trying, and eventually, I was able to stand on the board for a short time. I felt a great sense of achievement, and it became one of the most exciting moments of my stay.

At school, I had many chances to talk with Australian students. Even though my English was not perfect, they tried to understand me and communicate with me. Their kindness helped me feel more confident in speaking English. Through these experiences, I learned that communication is not only about perfect language but also about trying to connect with others.

This experience also changed the way I think about my daily life. In Japan, I often spend a lot of time on my phone, but in Australia, I spent more time talking with people and enjoying each moment. I realized how important it is to take action and enjoy new experiences without being afraid.

These three weeks went by so quickly, but I learned so many things and made unforgettable memories. I am truly grateful to my host family, teachers, and friends who supported me during this program.



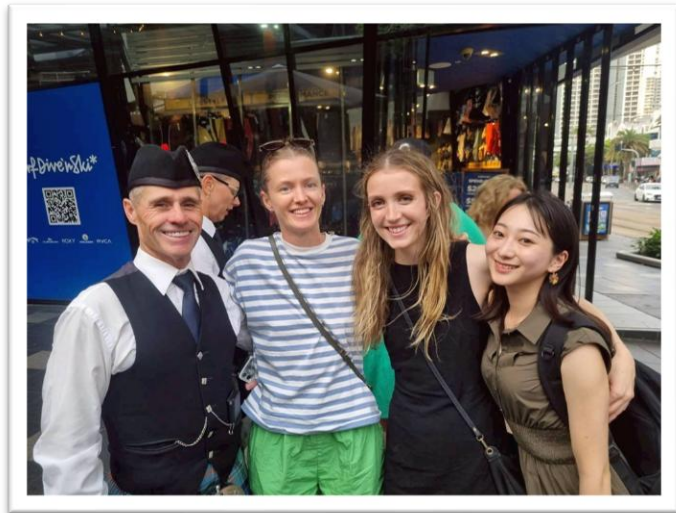
I definitely want to come back to Australia again someday.

## *Sparkling and special memories*

Isobe Mizuki

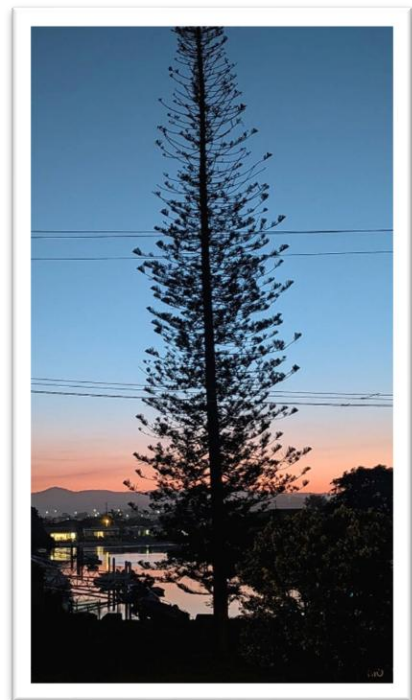
I spent wonderful days in Australia for three weeks with lovely people. It was my first time to going Australia, so I was excited about something new that I would experience in there. I experienced various new things in weekends with my host family and I've learnt Australian culture in the classroom with great teachers in weekdays.

One of my best memories with my host family was going to the festival of St Patrick's Day. We put on something green and celebrate Ireland culture. I enjoyed the bagpipe performance and dance. It was very special to be able to join other county's culture while I stayed in Australia. Also, my host family took me to the church in Brisbane. It was also my first time to attending the service in English, so I felt a sense of the sacred, it became one of my unforgettable memories!



In school, we have been to a lot of places including Marine discovery Centre, Byron Bay and so on. Everything was new and beautiful for me. I realized that people in Australia loved their cultures and tried to cherish and protect them for next generation. Using only English at school helps me improve my English skills. I was so happy to study surrounded by full of nature!

Three weeks in Australia were special every single day! Thank you for my lovely host family, great teachers and students in Lindisfarne, and wonderful friends I met through this program.



## *My experience in Australia*

Haruka Okabayashi

I studied abroad in Australia for three weeks to improve my English.

At first, I felt very nervous because it was my first time studying abroad. However, after a nearly nine-hour flight, my anxiety disappeared when I saw the beautiful natural scenery. The people in Australia were very kind and welcoming, and I quickly grew to love the country.

During the weekdays, I attended school, where I learned about Australian culture and went on excursions to various places. One of my favorite memories was finding my favorite item at the school café. I also enjoyed having lunch with Australian students. They were very friendly and often talked to me, which made me feel comfortable. In addition, it was a valuable experience to interact with them by sharing Japanese culture.



The most memorable experience was going surfing. Although it was my first time, I felt very excited when I was able to ride the waves. I was exhausted afterward, but I would definitely like to try it again.

Spending time with my host family was also very special. We enjoyed afternoon tea on the balcony every day. I played with their lovely dog, took walks along the beach, and they kindly took me to various places, including a wildlife sanctuary.

I am also grateful that I met wonderful classmates and teachers. I looked forward to going to school every day.

This experience broadened my perspective and became a very meaningful opportunity for me. It also helped me improve my English-speaking skills and made me feel more positive. I hope to visit Australia again in the future.

## *Lovely memories in Australia*

Sana Kamoda



My study abroad experience in Australia turned out to be much more enjoyable than I had expected. Before leaving, I felt a bit anxious because I didn't know anyone, but once I arrived, I met so many people and ended up making a lot of friends.

During my stay, I had many experiences that I could never have had in Japan. One of the most memorable moments was holding a koala. It was such a cute and special experience that I will never forget. I was also amazed by how beautiful the ocean was. The view was breathtaking and made me feel relaxed just by looking at it.

My host family was very kind and funny, and I had a great time with them. We even played together in their pool, which became one of my favorite memories. They treated me like a member of their family, so when it was time to say goodbye, I couldn't stop crying.

Another unforgettable memory was talking with my friends on the bus during a heavy rainstorm. It was nothing special at the time, just casual conversation, but it became one of those moments that made me truly feel happy to be there.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of stepping out of my comfort zone and connecting with others. If you are even a little interested in studying abroad, I highly recommend giving it a try. It will definitely become a valuable and unforgettable experience.



## *I'm Australian*

Yuto Kuchikata

For me, this is a second trip for Australia. Then I learnt a lot of things in this program. Culture, the beautifulness of nature, personality of Aussie, and what is important thing for my life.

First, when I came to Australia and was welcomed by my host family, I couldn't hear what they were saying at all. However, step by step I talked to them in English, I could hear and talk much well!! I was so happy that when I could tell them my opinion. Also, not only English skills but also the most important thing I learnt was the affordable mind in their lives. In Japan, many people spend a time with job, studying and relationship between other people. I think that too busy for nowadays Japanese. In Australia, many people have affordable mind.



In other words, the time passes away slowly. Every day they go to beech, every day they play sports..etc. they are always energetic and looks fun. I thought that was the most important thing in life. Feeling nature close, talking with each other with smile and cherish family and myself... Having such minds make my or your life happier.

Finally, I believe that what I experienced here and spent with host family was memorable experience in my life. ( I got many friends here !!!)



## *My Aussie Life*

Koko Kubota

Looking back, those three weeks in Australia were honestly some of the best moments of my life. Since it was my first time studying abroad and I wasn't that confident in my English, I was a total nervous wreck at first. I kept worrying about how my homestay would turn out and if I could actually survive in a place where I didn't know a single soul.



But now, I can say for sure: I'm so glad I joined this program! Living in a place without my family or any friends around was a huge challenge, but it was exactly what I needed to grow. It was the perfect opportunity to become more independent. Back in Japan, I always had people to rely on, but in Australia, I had to figure things out and take care of myself. That kind of experience is something I could never have had if I had stayed in my comfort zone.

Every part of my new life was so much fun. I loved the "morning tea" culture and even enjoyed the simple routine of making my own lunches every day. It made me feel like I was really standing on my own two feet. And of course, playing music was the ultimate highlight! It helped me connect with people even when I couldn't find the right words.



Because of this trip, I'm not afraid of interacting with people from other countries anymore. I've realized that I can handle things on my own, even in a brand-new environment. I want to keep studying English so I can talk to even more people around the world. Huge thanks to my host family and everyone who supported me during this life-changing three weeks.

## *My experience in Australia*

Mizuki Sasahara



My time in Australia was truly wonderful. Before leaving Japan, I was anxious about many things—such as food, culture, and language—but none of those concerns turned out to be necessary. My host family was considerate of my dietary preferences, serving me rice and preparing miso soup. While I felt cultural differences throughout the day, both at home and at school, the daily routine here felt like a healthier way to spend my time compared to Japan, and I often found myself thinking that this might be how things should naturally be.

What I remember most fondly is the time I spent with my host family. They took us to various places and let us experience new things so we could enjoy ourselves. We also shared meals every night, and after dinner, we would watch TV shows together or spend time discussing our respective cultures. I came to this program with the serious intention of learning about the culture and improving my language skills. They understood this and taught me various idioms, slang, facts about Australia, and the world—all of which were invaluable experiences for me.



I also attended church services every Sunday, and I remember being deeply moved and feeling envious that such a place, overflowing with love, existed. In Japan, people don't express their emotions very much, and we live in an environment where anyone outside our family is considered a stranger. But in Australia, strangers often communicate with one another, and there are places where love is recognized. I thought to myself how wonderful that was, and how essential it is for human beings. In Japan, when I ride packed trains to school and see people walking through the streets, everyone looks tired, as if they're living just to work. But in Australia, it felt like people work as a means to the end of simply living, and I felt time passing much more slowly. Of course, there are many good aspects to Japan's fast-paced lifestyle, but I found myself deeply envious of Australia's flexible way of life.

This experience made me rethink how I use my time. It also made me keenly realize just how important it is to exercise and connect with nature. Since returning to Japan, I feel like I've gotten better at time management, and my determination to work harder for the future and see more of the world has grown stronger.



## *The best memories in Australia*

Fusei Shirai

What I want to say here is you should take an action if you have an interest in studying abroad. The reason why I can join this program is the introduction from the professor I took when I was freshman. I have never studied abroad in my lives, even travel though I wanted to experience something new outside Japan. After I participated in this program for three weeks, my life values were changed by touching another culture and interacting with people in Australia.

People in Australia who I met are very kind to me. I stayed with young married couples, and they treated me as a real member of their family. One of the culture differences I felt is doing what you must do of your own. In Japan, if you live with your family, it is usual for your parents wake you up, prepare your breakfast, fold your laundries. On the other hand, they contacted me not as customers but as family members. I had to get up without any help not to be late for school, prepare for lunch, and do laundry of my own.

Furthermore, what surprised me is that my host family get up early every morning to go walking or surfing before they commute to their workplaces. I have never seen such active people at least in Japan. This is the photo I took when I followed my host mother's walk. The place I stayed is very close to the beach and the beautiful sights make me energetic at the beginning of the day.

I am so happy to experience what I have never tried in Australia. It was first time trying surfing, special food, and seeing koalas, but one of the memorable times is spending time with my host family. Both are teachers at school I attended but they are very humorous.



As I talk about my host father, he is very good at handling the car and is funny while watching football game because when something happens in the game, he suddenly screams. I like talking with him in the car. The interesting conversation is asking him how did you fall in love with his wife. After talking, he advised me "Just be yourself". I enjoyed talking and was happy to learn something new. About my host mother, she also made me happy and fun while in Australia. I cannot stop laughing when she suddenly began to dance at night, saying "energy, energy, energy!" She often invited me to go to activities: walking early in morning, going to the market and supermarket, and taking me to meet her brother and mother. It was a special experience



that I could communicate with people around my host family.

I felt happy to meet other cultures at that time. Three weeks in Australia definitely changed my life values. I want to practice English and getting up early like my host family:]

## *My memory of Australia*

Nanako Suda

In March, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Australia for three weeks. This experience was one of the most meaningful and eye-opening moments in my life.

One of the most impressive aspects of my stay was experiencing Christianity in daily life. In Japan, I had only learned about Christianity through class, but in Australia, I could see how it is actually practiced. For example, before meals, my host family would say a prayer, and they also attended church regularly. Being able to witness these customs firsthand helped me understand their faith more deeply and made me realize how religion can shape people's values and lifestyles.

Another interesting point was the difference in values that I noticed in everyday life. People in Australia seemed very flexible in their way of thinking. They did not stick too strongly to fixed rules and were open to different ideas and situations.

In addition, I was surprised that people often greeted others kindly, even strangers. For example, people would smile and say "G'day!" on the street or start small conversations. This made me feel welcome and comfortable. In Japan, it is less common to talk to strangers, so I found this difference very refreshing and warm.



Through this study abroad experience, I not only improved my English skills but also broadened my perspective on culture and values. I learned that there is no single "correct" way of thinking, and understanding diversity is very important in today's global society. I believe this experience will be useful for my future.

## *My Australian Memories*

Amane Tsuge

The three weeks I spent in Australia were a very important time in my life. I had already been abroad and stayed with a host family before. So, in my case, this study abroad experience itself wasn't particularly special. However, all the experiences I had over the past three weeks were new to me and truly invaluable. I've picked out my top three highlights from all these memories.

The reason I chose this program out of some programs is that I love animals and nature. First, let's talk about animals. While in Australia, I got to see all kinds of animals. Our teacher took us to an animal center, and so did my host family too. They were so sweet and friendly, and they really warmed my heart. I also found lots of animals in my backyard and at the park.



Second, Australia also had plenty of beautiful natural scenery. The sky and sea, which were far bluer than in Japan, and the green landscape



moved me every day. Every time I went to see the ocean, participated in nature studies, or walked on a school green ground, I felt that humans live alongside nature on this planet. The fact that Australians love their country's natural beauty also inspired a deep appreciation for nature in me.

Third, I absolutely loved the lovely personalities of Australian people. They loved animals and nature and wanted to live alongside them and protect them. They also loved people. They loved their families and friends, and they loved us Japanese students as well. Not only that, but they were friends with everyone—from people they met for the first time to those they encountered on the street. I really loved them—they were always cheerful, kind, and warm-hearted. During those three weeks, they were truly my family and friends.



My time here in Australia was truly wonderful, it's an experience I will never be able to repeat. When I heard I would be spending 23 days abroad, I thought it would be a long trip. But once I was actually there, it felt very short, and the end came all too soon. I felt truly sad about it, and I think there were still so many things I could have done. I think there were many things I was able to do because it was three weeks,

and many things I couldn't do because it was three weeks. But I will never forget the precious memories of the days I spent with my friends at AGU, the students and teachers in Australia, and my Australian family. I hope to never forget the experiences of this journey and to remain someone who is kind to nature and animals. I hope to live my life with kindness toward others. I want to live without ever forgetting these cherished memories and experiences, and I hope that someday I can go back and see them again.

## *Homestay in Australia*

Karin Nakano

My homestay in Australia was a great time. I experienced many special things with my host family, friends, and teachers. It's hard to express how wonderful the time was.

Firstly, I was nervous about my host family and daily life in Australia that is very different from Japan, but I know these worries were unnecessary. My host family was very kind and gave me a good environment. They took me to many places, for example, beautiful beaches, mountains, shopping and so on. We enjoyed talking, eating, watching movies, and playing with my host sisters. They tried to understand my English, and we had many great times. Also, my host sisters had a lot of energy, so they made me happy every day. We usually swam and played tag.

During our school time at Lindisfarne, we experienced and learned many things that are hard to experience in Japan. We didn't just study English. We could feel the nature of Australia by looking at many animals and going to the beach. But the most memorable thing at Lindisfarne was that we communicated with students and learned about each other's cultures. They often spoke to us and taught us many things. We enjoyed morning tea and lunch together. Also, our teachers were very kind. They helped us in many ways. We spent precious time together.



Another memory was surfing. This was my first time surfing, and it was a little difficult, but very fun. I enjoyed it like snowboarding. The waves in Australia were in good condition for surfing. But I want to warn you about sunburn. The sun is stronger than I expected. I got terrible sunburn. However, this is also a good memory.

I think I made a good choice to go to Australia. The three weeks went by in a flash, but they were incredibly intense and unforgettable experiences. I miss Australia, so I want to go back there again.



## *From Anxiety to Irreplaceable Experience*

Aoba Negishi

I was very nervous before joining this program because I had several concerns. I had food allergies, I had never been away from my family or Japan for more than a week, and I was not confident in my English. However, thanks to the kindness and support of the local people and my classmates, I was able to stay healthy and truly enjoy the three weeks.

I was particularly concerned about my food allergies. I had to check what was included in my meals in English to avoid eating certain foods. Nevertheless, my host mother had already been informed of my health conditions by the university, so I did not need to give detailed explanations in my limited English after I arrived. Most of my meals were prepared by my host mother and Australian dishes were not very complicated, so I felt reassured when eating.

Moreover, I was anxious about staying in an unfamiliar environment with people I had just met and having to communicate with them in English. During the first few days, I could not understand and speak English well, but my host mother and the local teachers were open-minded and tried to understand me, and with some help from my classmates, I was able to adapt. Day by day, life in Australia became more comfortable and enjoyable.



One of the most meaningful aspects of this program was the connections I made with local people and my classmates. I was able to meet people I would not have encountered if I had not participated in this program. We interacted across different years and gradually became closer. Even after returning to Japan, I still regularly meet with some of my classmates that I became close to. I believe these valuable relationships would not have developed without this program.

In addition, I was able to improve my English skills naturally. At first, I was not very good at English and nervous about the new environment, so I struggled to communicate. However, the local teachers spoke clearly so I was able to follow the classes. As I tried to understand and enjoy daily lessons and conversations, my listening and speaking skills gradually improved.

Another highlight of the program was the variety of experiences both inside and outside the classroom. This program had lots of excursions and opportunities to

communicate with Australian students. Also, we could see many beautiful views. My favorite scenery was Fingal Head Beach we went on the last day and the starry sky I saw from the garden.

Overall, this program was very enjoyable and valuable. I will never forget these three weeks.



## *An Unforgettable Chapter in Australia*

Seika Han

The three weeks in Australia were a wonderful time in my life. The time went by in a flash, but it was very fulfilling. I learned not only English but also the Australian lifestyle, culture, and nature.

At school, the teachers prepared a lot of activities for us. We enjoyed all the excursions and learned a lot from the classes. Lindisfarne students were very kind. They helped us with our school life and tried to talk with us. As a student majoring in education, it was very meaningful for me to visit a local school and interact with the children. Visiting the Marine Centre was my most favorite excursion. We learned about Australian sea animals and even touched some of them. I was very interested in the animals, and I was happy that I could understand the explanations in English.



Spending time with my host family was also wonderful. This was my first homestay, so I was worried about communication. But my host mother tried to understand my broken English and taught me many things. We made a lot of memories, such as watching movies, playing tennis, walking by the rivers and the sea, and eating dinner together. The scenery near the water was very beautiful.

What impressed me the most in Australia was the warmth of the people. I had many opportunities to talk with local people, and they welcomed us everywhere. I was very surprised by that.

Through this program, I learned a lot and my English definitely improved, but I realized I need to study more. I will keep studying English to make the most of this experience. When I go back to Australia and see my host family again, I want to show them how much I have grown.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported this program, especially my host family, and the teachers and students at Lindisfarne.



## *Three weeks in Australia*

Maho Hosoda

These past three weeks—my first time living in a foreign country—passed very quickly. Before I left, I was more worried than excited, and I was nervous about the language and the different way of life. But looking back now, I really feel that everything was new and a very happy experience.

My best memory is watching AFL (Australian Football). I didn't know the rules at first, but my host father kindly explained the rules to me while we were watching TV before the game. Thanks to him, I really enjoyed the exciting atmosphere at the stadium. I am so grateful to my host family for this special experience.



My host family also took me to "Australian Outback Spectacular." It is a famous dinner show featuring amazing horse riding and stories of the Australian outback. Watching the performance was very exciting and a unique experience that I could never have in Japan. It was a great way to learn about Australian culture.

I also learned many things from the Australian way of life. People there always live with nature and value their slow and relaxed time. In Japan, I used to fill my schedule and always felt busy. However, seeing the local life—enjoying family time in the evenings and walking on the beach in the mornings—made me think about what it really means to have a relaxed mind.

Furthermore, the people I met were incredibly kind. For example, the bus drivers always greeted me with a big smile and a cheerful "Hello" or "Good morning." Their small acts of kindness made me feel welcome every day. Everyone was so positive and often said "No worries." This phrase really touched my heart because it taught me to stay positive and not to worry too much about small mistakes.

All of these warm encounters and discoveries I made there have become a very special experience for me. I will never forget these experiences for the rest of my life. I will never forget my gratitude to my host family and the local teachers who welcomed me like family. I want to incorporate the "sense of ease" and "positive mindset" I learned in Australia into my life back in Japan and move forward in my own way, staying positive.



## *My Memorable Days in Australia*

Honoka Matsuhisa

I'm not very good at English, so I actually hesitated a lot about whether to join this program. However, after these three weeks, I feel that I had one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life. I am really glad that I participated in this program!



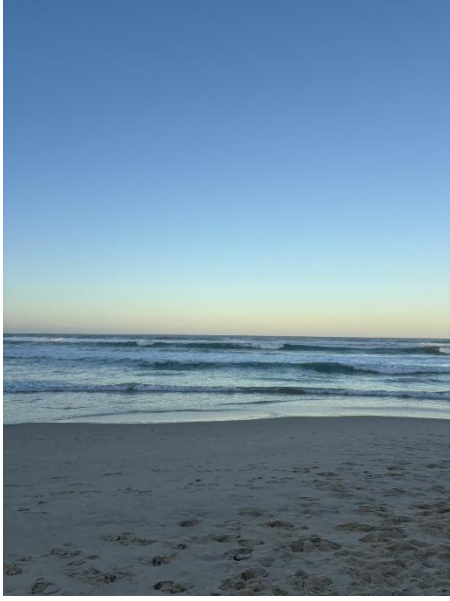
The most memorable experience was when they surprised me by taking me to a soccer game. I had written in an email that I wanted to go, and they made my wish come true. It was my first time watching a live sports game, and I really enjoyed it!

I am very grateful to my host family. At first, I was very nervous, but they were so kind and warm that I gradually felt comfortable with them. I truly appreciated that they waited for me when I struggled to find the right words and always tried to understand me. The everyday moments, like having dinner together, chatting in the living room and playing with their dogs, were especially meaningful to me. They taught me about Australian culture, and I also shared things about Japan.



At school, I learned about Australian history, culture, and daily life. By finding similarities and differences between Australia and Japan, I was able to deepen my understanding of Australia and also reflect on my own country. I also have many great memories from the excursions. Hugging a koala, feeding kangaroos, eating tropical fruits, and surfing were all first-time experiences for me, which made them very special. I also remember eating delicious acai bowls with friends in Byron Bay in the heavy rain.

I was able to spend such fulfilling days thanks to my host family, my lovely roommate, school friends, and teachers. I am truly thankful to all of them. I had so many “first-time” experiences in just three weeks. Visiting a foreign country and interacting with people from different cultures gave me many new perspectives and broadened my horizons. I learned the importance of respecting and accepting cultural differences. I will continue to do my best to improve my English. I hope to come back



to Australia again and see my host family. These three weeks were truly special in my life.

## *My memorable experience in Australia*

Maho Yamaura



I had the opportunity to study abroad in Australia for about three weeks, and it was truly a wonderful experience. Through daily conversations with my host family, we became very close, and I was able to learn about the differences between Australia and Japan in a natural way.

At school, I studied topics such as Christianity and cultural differences between Australia and Japan. I also had the chance to talk with local high school students, which gave me new perspectives and valuable learning experiences. One of the most memorable activities was trying surfing for the first time. It was challenging but very enjoyable. Australia's rich nature also helped me feel relaxed.

At first, I struggled to communicate in English, but as I continued talking with my host family and friends, I gradually gained confidence. This experience also made me realize the value of my own culture and how important it is to understand different perspectives.





Thanks to my teachers and friends, I was able to spend three amazing weeks filled with meaningful experiences. Through this experience, I became more motivated to improve my English skills. I also developed a stronger interest in learning about cultures not only in Australia but in other countries as well. I feel that I have become more active and open to taking on new challenges.



We will always remember you and  
the time we shared.  
Thank you for everything, and we wish  
you all the best!



