

Name: Karin Yamada (Kikuzato High School)

Title: The Days I can't forget

When I think about the wonderful time I spent in Australia, I feel like I want to go back again. It was my first time to go to Australia. The view in Australia was so beautiful. There were many people who came from different countries. Every time, every day was really important and special to me.

For four days we went to Blue Mountains Grammar School, which is huge when you compare to high schools in Japan. At first, I was a little bit nervous, but the students there were very kind to me and even said hello in Japanese, so I felt comfortable. I mostly spent the time with my buddy at school. I was surprised because her Japanese was really good. She told me that they have Japanese lessons at school. I thought I should study hard like her. When I had to leave, I cried because it was so fun staying in Blue Mountains.

For three days, we went to Jamberoo, the place which is full of nature. We experienced many things with our host family. We walked 6km along the coast from early sunny morning. At night, we had a campfire and saw shooting stars in the beautiful night sky. Our host family even let us brush and get on the horse. It was so hard to say goodbye, but we promised to come back there again.

For the last four days, we went to Sydney. The city was very big and crowded. We visited two high schools, St Aloysius College and Wenona School. I joined the classes and saw lots of students who were active. Sometimes, it was difficult to use English, but the students tried hard to understand me. So, I was really happy. We also visited Sydney and Taronga Zoo at the end of our trip. In Taronga, we saw and touched rare animals. We were so lucky.

Thanks to this program, I learned many things during my stay in Australia. I learned it was okay to make a mistake when speaking with people. Through this experience, I was able to communicate with lots of people without being afraid of making mistakes. I will never ever forget the days I spent in Australia. I want to make use of this experience and keep on trying hard for my bright future and for the society. I could definitely say that these experiences were the best in my life so far. I appreciate my friends, teachers and all the people who supported us in Australia.



Name: Karen Hattori (Kikuzato High School)

Title: Adventures in Sydney!

On the first day in Sydney, we went to Blue Mountains, which is a town to the south of Sydney. After we enjoyed the view of the mountains, we went to Blue Mountains Grammar School. The school had many differences from Kikuzato High School. Blue Mountains Grammar School had a big lawn and the school was much bigger than my high school. In the host school, they are separated into six groups called houses and each house has its own emblem. I felt I had jumped in to Harry Potter's world. Also their uniforms looked a bit like those in Harry Potter, as well.

From July 25th to 28th, we stayed in a host family's house. My host family treated me like real family, and they spoke to me slowly using simple English. When I talked to them, they listened to me carefully to make sure they could understand. They were so kind to me, and I felt sad when I had to say goodbye to them.

From July 28th to 30th, we stayed in Jamberoo. While we were going to Jamberoo, I saw a few wild kangaroos! Jamberoo is a quiet and beautiful village. At night, we could see many many stars, the Milky Way and luckily, we could even see a shooting star! I was surprised that my host family has cows and horses as pets! Jamberoo is a small village, so everyone knows each other and they all seemed to be friends. I thought Jamberoo is a friendly village.

After we stayed in Jamberoo, we moved to Sydney. I went to two different high schools in Sydney. I was surprised that both St Aloysius' College and Wenona High School are located in Sydney, but that they had completely different systems. For example, St Aloysius' College has class mates, but Wenona doesn't, so they need to change room for every class. When I went to school, a St Aloysius College's student said they're going to have a vacation, but a Wenona's student said they just had vacation. I think in Japan, high schools which are located close together have similar school systems. I was surprised to see there could be such a difference in one country's school system.

The 12 days I spent in Sydney were very fun and I enjoyed my stay very much. So, I felt the time passed very quickly. I want to say thank you to everybody who took part in this project. If I have a chance, I would like to treat people who come from abroad to Nagoya nicely!

