

**Name: Naho Sakuma(Tomida High School)**

**Title: Great experiences in Australia**

I visited Australia from July 27 to August 7. In Australia, I had a lot of experiences and I learned many things about Australia, for example, its culture, language and history.

I enjoyed the homestay in Blue Mountains very much. My host parents were both teachers. My host mother was a math teacher of Blue Mountains Grammar School. She was tender. She welcomed me warmly and often spoke to me. So I didn't become so nervous. My host father was an arts and crafts teacher of a public school. I stayed at their house for four days and I experienced the school life of Blue Mountains Grammar School. I found many differences between Australia and Japan there. Also I learned about the lifestyle in Australia.

On July 30, I first met my host mother in Blue Mountains Grammar School. And then we went to my host family's house. A few minutes later, my host father came home, too. Then, we ate dinner and talked together. After that, I introduced Japanese culture to them and moreover introduced "*origami*" and "*daruma otoshi*", too. They enjoyed them and I felt happy.

From July 31 to August 2, I went to Blue Mountains Grammar School. In school a buddy helped me. My buddy was a boy. He was a year-10 student. He was very kind and fine. I joined the classes which he took. In the afternoon, I went to Wentworth falls as an extra-curricular activity. Also, I was surprised that they had the time to eat some snacks. The time was called "recess". I thought that it was a unique culture. I saw many students eating something during the recess. I noticed that the teachers were very careful of the food allergy of the children. Also, I found a big difference. The students had their own computers. They were having classes using them. That was very fresh and interesting to me. I thought that computers were very convenient for students.

On August 1, I went to the Preschool of Blue Mountains Grammar School. I introduced some Japanese toys such as "*daruma otoshi*". They played with the toys and looked happy. On the night of the day, I attended to a welcome party. There I had enough time to talk to my host family and other host families. I listened to various things. The welcome party was very instructive for me.

August 2 was the last day of my homestay. My host mother took me to a supermarket, a cafe, and a pizza shop. I drank hot chocolate for the first time. It was so sweet and nice. It tasted like cocoa.

Through this program, I had great experiences in Australia, especially the homestay were very impressive to me.



Sydney Opera House



Hot chocolate