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Title: I Had a Great Time in Australia

I was very nervous before I left Japan for Australia because this trip was my first one to a foreign country. Before leaving for Sydney, I learned a lot of things about Japanese cultures, the history of calligraphy, many kinds of *Matcha*, traditional Japanese foods, and so on.

The first thing that surprised me in Australia was birds. I saw a lot of birds in Sydney Airport and around Sydney City. The color of their body was almost white. They looked like doves. And they were friendly. Even when we approached them, they didn't fly away. Later, in Taronga zoo, they fled and dropped their droppings on us when we were eating lunch outside.

On July 28, I was very happy to go to the Opera House. I have wanted to go there since I was in junior high school. The building was very beautiful, seen from every angle. I will never forget the scenery.

When I went to St Aloysius' College, I was surprised that almost the students had their laptops. So they introduced their school to us with them. I want to use a laptop in class in Japan, too. In Recess we made fair bread and ate it. It is a popular food in Australia. It was very yummy. And we introduced calligraphy to the students. First, we wrote the students' names in *Katakana*. Second, the students copied them. Third, we asked them their hobbies and wrote the names of their hobbies in *Kanji*. They looked very happy to experience calligraphy. I was happy to see them, too.

The homestay in Blue Mountains is the most memorable to me. I stayed with my host family between July 30 and August 3. My host mother took me to many places. And I played until late at night with her children. I played like a kid. When I went to a supermarket, I saw many big vegetables. Eggplants and green capsicums are much bigger than those of Japan. My host mother told me, "Green capsicums were not hot because they are big. Japanese green peppers are smaller than them. So green peppers are hotter than green capsicums." On the last day of the homestay, I felt very sad. I told my host mother, "Thanks for these 3 days." When I was crying, my host mother held me and we promised to keep in touch with each other.

On the next day, we went to Taronga zoo. I was excited to see a birds show. I wondered why the birds didn't fly away. We saw many animals. They were all cute. Taronga zoo keepers explained about the animals in detail. I learned the ecology of the animals very much.

I thought that the 12 days of this program was long before I left Japan, but the time flew. I had a great time in Australia. I had many good experiences through this program. From now on, I want to study English harder, and learn more difficult English, and keep in touch with my host family and buddies.

