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Title: After the Sydney Program

For a long time, I had wanted to visit Australia for the opportunity to improve my English and learn about the differences between Australia and Japan. When we arrived in Sydney, we were welcomed by many people.

First, I went to Cherrybrook Technology High School for a trial lesson. There were so many students. Some of them sang us a song “Sekai-ni Hitotsu Dake-no Hana.” We were very happy to hear them singing in Japanese. We also performed a dance to a Japanese pop song, “Tsukematsukeru”. We had a great time.

Next, we stayed with a family for a three-day homestay. The first time we met, four host families all gathered at a restaurant, and we had dinner together. Two friends and I were welcomed by our host family, Donna and David. We all watched a movie and ate pizza. Then, I demonstrated Japanese calligraphy for them. I wrote “Donna” and “David” in Chinese characters and they were delighted. Thanks to their kindness, we enjoyed our homestay.

After a wonderful stay with our host family, we went to St Aloysius College. We participated in Japanese class there. It was very interesting. One student even guided us around the school while speaking Japanese. It was very cool.

On August 2nd, we visited several different places in groups respectively. My group went to Sydney Tower, the Opera House and a supermarket. I witnessed the beautiful view from Sydney Tower, and took photos in Opera House. After that, we went to Sydney Town Hall, where we performed our dance routine again. I talked to lots of people about the relationship between Australia and Japan.

The next day, we visited Wenona School. It is a girls’ school. I got to experience what school life was like there. I enjoyed Japanese class, fine arts class, lunch time and recess. As there is no recess in Japan, I found it particularly interesting.

On our last day in Sydney, we went to Taronga Zoo. It is the sister zoo of Higashiyama Zoo in Nagoya City. I had been to Higashiyama Zoo a few times, so I was looking forward to visit it. I really enjoyed seeing the Koalas. They were incredibly cute.

Upon returning to Japan, I began to miss Australia a lot. I will never forget the experience I had. It encouraged me to try new things. I very much appreciate what the program did for me, and have become eager to learn more and more.