Name: Daichi Katahira (Yamada High School)

Title: Wonderful Trip

I had a valuable experience in Australia from July 24th to August 2nd. On July 24th, we rode on a tram in SCENIC WORLD and saw the big rocks "Three Sisters" before we arrived at Blue Mountains Grammar School. This school and Yamada High School are sister schools, so my goal is to develop a good relationship.

It was my first time to go abroad, so I was filled with anxiety and tension. I met my buddy student and he took me home. That night, I introduced Japan and Nagoya. I learned about Australia. From July 25th to July 27th, my buddy and I went to school by bus, which took us 50 minutes, and took lessons together. Japanese schools are very different from Australian schools. I was surprised that every student brings a PC to school. They don't have their own classroom, so they have to move quickly every time. They have a recess between 2nd period and 3rd period.

They held a farewell party on the last night. A lot of students and families got together and ate dinner. We, students from Nagoya, danced in front of them, and after that we all danced together with our own buddy. I made many friends there. I felt very sad when I separated with them. But some of them will come to Japan next year. Then I would like to guide them around Nagoya.

Next from July 27th to July 29th, we stayed in Jamberoo. There my host family keep 15 chickens and the farm next door keeps horses and cows. Life is surrounded by nature and we can't have such life in Nagoya. We walked on the coast on the weekend. We made a campfire in the garden, roasted marshmallows and watched wild animals, such as Possums. On the last day, my host family took us to fishing in Kiama. My host father caught several fish but we three caught none. I enjoyed visiting both the mountain and the sea.

Finally, we stayed in Sydney for 5 days. We visited St Aloysius' College and Shore High School. At St Aloysius' College, we took part in the quiz games with Year 8 students there. We had conversations in Japanese with Year 11 students, who spoke Japanese very well. In 6th period, we tried Aborigine's musical instrument "Didgeridoo". It looked like a very long recorder and sounded low pitched. At Shore, I took part in a religious meeting at the chapel. I felt familiar with Christianity. This school is famous for sports, such as rugby and basketball. My buddy lives in a dormitory.

In addition, we visited Sydney Town Hall. We were shown around the building. It was built in 1888. There is a conference hall and a theater. I was impressed with a diorama of Sydney, in which every citizen can see the future of the town.

Thanks to this program, I felt the ties of friendship with people in Australia. I was able to know about Australia. I would like to tell my friends in Japan what I have learned in Australia. I'll never forget this experience.