

Name: Sachi Tanaka (Yamada High School)

Title: First Time in Australia

I learned a lot of differences between Australia and Japan in this program.

First, I went to Scenic World, where I enjoyed very beautiful scenery, and I had a wonderful experience. For example, I got on Scenic Railway, Scenic Skyway, and Scenic Cableway. Especially Scenic Railway made me excited because it was like a roller coaster. After that I went to Blue Mountains Grammar School and met my host family. I was very nervous then, but they were very kind to me. I was so happy. In addition to that, they are interested in K-POP, just like me. So I could get along better not only with them but also with classmates through K-POP.

I took some classes with my buddy student. I was surprised at differences between schools in Australia and Japan. First, they don't use notebooks for classes. Basically, they use their computers instead of notebooks. I thought it was really efficient, so Japanese schools should introduce computers more in classes instead of notebooks because we need skills of computers for our futures. Second, during the classes, they were eating, and drinking. I think it was a good system because Japanese students can't eat anything during for the class even if they were hungry. Moreover, there are some students who are listening to music during the class. This is a big difference. Third, there is a recess in this school. "Recess" means the time to eat a snack; in short, this is the break time other than lunch time. They can buy snacks at the canteen. At that time, I enjoyed talking with my friends with eating some snacks. Of course there are other differences, but I was so surprised at these differences at an Australian school.

For another experience, there was a dinner party on the evening of 26th July. I performed calligraphy for the local students and their parents. Everyone praised my work, saying "good!". I was very happy to hear that. I was glad that I have learned calligraphy. And it was so exciting to see that everyone was pleased with it.

Until I went there, I didn't know much about Australia. Now I know people in Australia get to sleep early. Water is very valuable in Australia, so the price of the water was high and the time of the shower was short. I thought the way Australian people treat natural resources was good.

Next year, students from Blue Mountains Grammar School will come to visit Yamada High School. I am looking forward to it.