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Title: The best experience in my life

This is the very first time for me to visit a foreign country so I was overwhelmed and nervous. In Australia, I had many chances to talk with people from other countries. Before I went to Australia, I researched about Australia on the Internet. I learned that Australia English has unique pronunciation. I became interested in it and I listened to their conversation on the Internet movie every night, but I couldn't understand their English perfectly. I made up my mind to study English harder.

I got a lot of precious experiences in this program. What impressed me most was a visit to local schools and homestay. We went to ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE and Blue Mountain Grammar School. We could show students Japanese culture such as fukuwarai, judo, kendo, and so on. We learned Australian culture in class. We learned that Australia's people end with "e" sound when they speak. "Chocolate" is pronounced as "chockey", for example. Also I had recess time for the first time. Most students went out, played basketball and ate snacks or fruits then. All students used their computer in classes. Many students asked teachers a lot. I think that's the difference between Japan and Australia. In Blue Mountain Grammar School, I took classes with my buddy. When I couldn't understand what teacher said, she helped me.

From July 30th to August 3rd I did a homestay in Blue Mountain. I'm in the Japanese tea club in my school so I wanted to show my host family Japanese tea. I brought Japanese tea set and made it with them. I also made okonomi-yaki and miso-soup. I was happy that they enjoyed Japanese food. My host family took me to many places. We got on a ferry and went to LUNA PARK the last night with my host family. It was beautiful. I really enjoyed it. I cannot thank them enough for the wonderful time in Blue Mountain.

August 5th we went to JETRO and town hall. We learned economy of Australia in JETRO. I felt that Australia's economy is developing considerably. I felt attracted to the way they work. People in Australia would not work overtime and get home earlier than in Japan. I think they valued their time with their family and friends. In town hall I could talk with councilor. He was so nice and he told me that he had eaten Nagoya food. I was very happy to hear that. We were guided in the town hall. This was a very valuable experience for us.

Furthermore, we must remember serious water problem in Australia. People in Australia rarely soak in the bathtub. Water is essential for us to live. I made it a habit to take shower more quickly.

I learned a lot of things from this program. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing experience. I want to make use of this experience for my life in the future.

