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Title: My new world : Australia

I went abroad for the first time through this program. Before going there I was as nervous as I was excited. During the pre-training, I was studying about both Japan and Australia. But after coming back here, I would like to learn more and more about Australia.

At first, I went around Sydney and saw the Opera House. I was able to enjoy the city of Sydney with listening to the history of the place from the local guide. On the second day, I visited St. Aloysius' College. I was very surprised that there were many students who were good at Japanese. The students at St. Aloysius' College spoke Japanese and we spoke English. I also enjoyed "fairy bread," a children's snack that was eaten at an Australian party.

On the third day, I met my host family. I was very nervous before I met them, but when they picked me up, they took me to a sightseeing spot and my family gently welcomed me, so I was very relieved. I also enjoyed talking to my host family about Japan and my own family, and I felt joy of communicating about Japan to overseas people. While living with my host family, I enjoyed watching movies with them and going to see my buddy's kayak lessons. They treated me like a member of their family, which made me happy.

I went to the same school as my buddy, Blue Mountains Grammar School. It surprised me that all the students brought and used their own computers in class. Nobody Wrote in notebooks. There was "Recess" which is a scheduled free playtime this program can go outside or stay in and do everything we want. I think we should use computers in class in Japan, too. In Blue Mountains Grammar School, I had the opportunity to teach Japanese culture. I taught Origami. I was happy to see Australian students having fun. I was able to interact with many Australian students at school.

Everything I experienced in Australia was new. I was able to learn about Australian history, language and environment. It was a very precious time.

This experience made me realize that we don't have to speak perfect English to communicate with native speakers. But we have to try not to be afraid to speak English, to make an effort, and to use all your skills. My world became bigger through this experience. I would like to go other countries to expand my world.

