

**Name: Natsumi Yoda (Yamada High School)**

**Title: My precious memories**

Thanks to this program, I was able to visit abroad that I wanted to go for a long time. From July 27<sup>th</sup>, I had a lot of first time experience. For instance, I got on a plane, went to sea, walked on a beach, had Australian food and life style, and so on.

On the first day, July 27<sup>th</sup>, I was very nervous. I was worried because I could not speak English well. However, such worries were soon gone. My host mother took me to beautiful view spots. We talked a lot. I have gained self-confidence because she often told me that I spoke English very well. At night, I gave some presents to my host family. They were pleased with them. But there was one thing they did not like. It was the noodle. I did not know that it was not very popular among Australians. Actually, when I ate dinner in a food court, most of the people did not eat noodle. I thought noodles were a popular food in the world. It was good for me to know about these things.

I was interested in water shortage. I think the water shortage is one of the biggest problems in Australia, because I learned many Australians were careful about their water usage. Therefore, I asked my host family if it was true. Host father and mother said “Australia suffers from droughts. So a child can live to be three years old without ever seeing rain”. As proof of this story, my host family’s house has three huge tanks to save water. My friends told me when Australian people wash their dishes, they do not rinse their dishes with water, they just wipe them with a towel. I was surprised to hear that. I think Japan is more blessed with water than Australia. I think we must not waste water.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> night, “Dinner party” was held at Blue Mountains Grammar School. We showed our host families Japanese traditional cultures, such as “Sorani Bushi”, Kendo and Judo. They were pleased. We had a great time. My birthday was the second day after the party. So they sang a birthday song for me. They made me happy. I will never forget this day.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> evening, Host family held my birthday party with my host family buddy’s friend at Host family’s house. We made pizza. It was delicious. There was an exchange student from Denmark in the host family’s house. She made traditional Danish cake for me. This cake had many pits. It looked like honeycomb. I have not ever seen such a strange cake. It was very sweet and really good. My host mother and their buddy’s friends gave me presents. I will never forget happy memories for the two days.

During the program, I got to learn a lot about Australia. I will tell my experience to my friends. I thought I should study English much harder through this program. In December, some Blue Mountains Grammar School students will come to visit Yamada High School. I will prepare so that I can tell them about Japanese culture and Nagoya city by then. I am looking forward to seeing them again. Lastly, I’m most grateful to Nagoya City. We could not go to Australia without the support. Again, thanks to this program, I got to learn many things. I will never forget wonderful experience.

