



SPECIAL EDITION

SHIROISHI CULTURAL EXCHANGE TRIP TO AUSTRALIA 2018

Duration from 25/7/2018 to 2/8/2018



The group of Shiroishi Junior High School students visited Australia and stayed with local families for four nights. During their time in Australia, they visited St Raphael's Catholic School Cowra and experienced Australian family life. They also visited Sydney and other parts of New South Wales.

Hikaru SATO, Shirakawa JHS answered:



Questions from Florence:

- 1. What was your best memory in Australia?** At school in Cowra.
- 2. What was your favorite activity in school?**
It was at the math lesson.
- 3. What did you do with your host family?**
We went to a big lake, and a big river... I saw a lot of kangaroos there.

4. How was talking to fellow Australian classmates?

We had good conversations, for example about Australian culture and food.

5. What was the strangest thing in Australia?

The very big oven at home!

6. What food did you like or dislike?

Everything was good, except for Vegemite. It was "so-so".

7. What did you learn and want to share with others?

The Australian culture.

8. Would you like to have a job that uses English?

Yes. I'm not sure yet but maybe in education.

9. If you go back to Australia someday, what do you want to do there?

I want to visit Cowra again and do some more sightseeing.

10. Any advice to someone who visits a foreign country?

You have to talk a lot. Don't be shy!





Questions from Kara:

1. How was it? It was very fun and I enjoyed it!

2. What did you do with your Host Family?

I went to my Host Family's farm. My host family is 6 people There is a father, mother, two brothers and two sisters!

3. How did you start conversations?

'What's your name?' and 'How old are you?'

4. What did you eat at your Host Family's home?

I ate kangaroo and shrimp!

5. Was it delicious?

...So-so...

6. What was your favorite meal in Australia?

It was a vegetable carrot soup!

7. What was your favorite activity in Australia?

It was dodgeball and Japan's rules are different from Australia's rules. There are 7 balls! So dangerous!!!!!!!

8. What surprised you the most about Australian schools?

I was surprised there were two lunchtimes!

9. Did you eat two lunches? Yes!

10. What did Australian schools and Japanese schools have in common? (What was the same?)

Japanese studying is so difficult. Nothing is the same!

11. What Japanese culture did you teach? I taught calligraphy.

12. What *kanji* did you teach? I taught dream.

13. What did Australian students say when they saw your cultural performance?

They said to me, 'Good performance!'

14. What did you talk about with Australian students? I talked about Japanese schools.

15. What was the most beautiful thing you saw? It was a beautiful sunset! So red!

16. What do you want to learn about?

My host mother makes pottery! She uses a pottery wheel! She uses coil and pinching styles too
She makes drinking cups, small plates, and bowls. She makes Japanese style cups!

17. What would you like to do again?

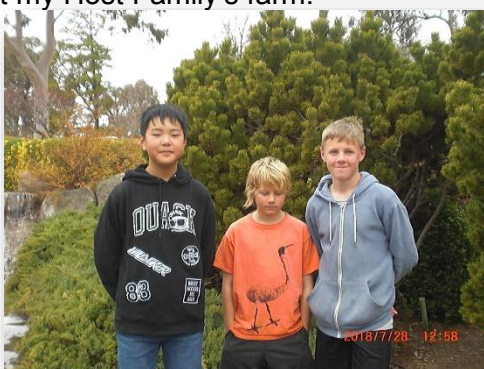
I want to go to my Host Family's farm again. It's an Animal Farm: sheep, and horses. It was fantastic!

18. Do you want to go back to Australia? (For how many days/months/years?)

Yes, I do! A month!

19. What do you want to do?

I'll visit my Host Family's farm!



Shion MURAKAMI, Shiroishi JHS answered:



Questions from Richard:

1. What was the most memorable moment of your trip?

Visiting an Australian school was the most memorable moment of my trip. Before going to Australia, I was worried about a lot of things but I had a very enriching time during my visit there and it was a very fun. I was glad that I was able to give my name card to everyone during recess and we even became friends on LINE!

2. Did you experience any culture shock when you went to Australia?

No. I was worried whether I would be able to get used to living in Australia before I went but after spending some time living there, I realized that it wasn't all that different to my own home in Japan! There were lots of unexpected surprises though...

3. Do you want to study English harder than before?

Yes. Even before I went to Australia, I liked English very much but there were lots of things I didn't understand during my time in Australia so I want to study English a lot more.

4. Do you want a job that requires English?

Yes. I haven't decided what I want to do in the future yet, but I would like a job that involves English.

5. Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Yes!! The Australians I met were very kind and always had a smile on their faces. I want to try living in Australia in the future.



Momoka YAMAMURA, Shiroishi JHS answered:



Questions from Richard:

1. What was the most memorable moment of your trip?

My most memorable moment was setting foot in the garden and being surprised at how large it was. I was very excited and we played netball there. I was also surprised that there were a lot of kangaroos nearby.

2. Did you experience any culture shock when you went to Australia?

Yes, I did. When I attended math class, I was able to solve the math problems because I had already learnt it in Japan.

3. Do you want to study English harder than before?

Yes, I do.

4. Do you want a job that requires English?

Yes, but I'm interested in becoming a nursery school teacher so I'm not sure.

5. Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Yes, I do. I think Australia is a very good place.





Questions from Kara:

1. **How was it?** Very fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. **What did you do with your Host Family?**

I went to a Japanese Garden with my Host Family. And I played table tennis with my Host Brother.

How old is he? He's 14!



4. **What did you eat at your Host Family's home?**

Steak! It was beef steak and Eggs Benedict!

5. **What was your favorite meal in Australia?**

Steak! It was 10 cm!

6. **What was your favorite activity in Australia?**

Basketball at school. Many people! Boys and girls played together!

7. **What surprised you the most about Australian schools?**

Recess. **Why?** Japanese people don't have recess. It was about 15minutes.

8. **What did Australian schools and Japanese schools have in common? (What was the same?)**

They have many teachers and many students!

9. **What Japanese culture did you teach?**

Japanese *sensu!* (It's a Japanese fan.) And Japanese toys like *kendama* and Japanese helicopters!

10. **What did the Australian students say when they saw your cultural performance?**

'Very good' and 'Great!'

11. **What did you talk about with Australian Students?**

About Japan : my school, culture, Japanese food, and sushi!

12. **What was the most beautiful thing you saw?**

Sydney's Opera House!

13. **What sport/food do you want to learn about?**

Field Hockey! **Are you going to teach your friends?** Yeah!

14. **What would you like to do again?**

I want to go to Cowra and Sydney again!

15. **Do you want to go back to Australia?**

Yes! **For how long?** 10 years!

16. **What do you want to do?**

I want to talk about Australia to many people like my friends and teachers!





Questions from Billy:

1. What was your favorite memory in Australia?

Homestay was my best memory because my host family was very kind. My host sister also had a birthday party which I enjoyed.

2. Did you have any culture shock in Australia?

Yes, I did. They put on shoes in the house! I was also surprised they can eat snacks in school.

3. After going to Australia, do you want to study English harder? Why / Why not?

Yes, I do because it's difficult for me to talk in English.

4. What was something valuable you learned going to Australia?

I learned about the culture and life habits in Australia.

5. In the future, do you want to go abroad somewhere again? Where? Why?

Yes, I do. I want to go to America because I want to learn a lot about the culture of other countries, not just of Japan.



G'day from Australia!
We're having lots of fun!!

Hello! We hope you enjoyed our interviews and hearing about how much fun everyone had.
Let's keep exchanging cultures!



From left, Florence, Richard, Billy and Kara

◆ Issued by Shiroishi International Association ◆

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