



October 2019

SHIROISHI CULTURAL EXCHANGE DELEGATION TRIP TO AUSTRALIA 2019

Duration from 24/7/2019 to 1/8/2019



The delegation group of Shiroishi Junior High School students visited Australia this summer. They experienced Australian school life at St Raphael's Catholic School Cowra and stayed with their homestay families. During their time in Cowra, they learned a lot about the differences from Japan, the history between Japan and Cowra, and how nice and kind the people are. The group also visited Sydney and other places of New South Wales. Here are our interviews with the students.

We hope you all enjoy the interviews!

Here you go~~~~☺



SATO Hironobu, Higashi JHS student



1) What was your best memory in Australia?

The homestay, I thought it was very interesting.
The family was very friendly although it was difficult to talk.

2) What food did you like or dislike?

I liked the kangaroo meat. I think the flavor was good.
I didn't dislike anything I loved it all.

3) What advice do you have for someone in a foreign country? - Don't worry too much and just have fun!

4) Did you experience culture shock in Australia?

It was surprising for the greeting and sayings to be different and expressed differently. They didn't have a form of "itadakimasu" or "otsukaresamedesu".

5) Did it make you want to learn English more? - Yes! I want to keep learning!



HASHIZUME Asuka, Higashi JHS student

1) What was something that was different from Japan?

I was surprised to see that students had schools that were very far from their home.

2) What was something you liked about Australia?

I liked that there were so many interesting animals everywhere. Like kangaroos and koalas.

3) What was something that surprised you about Australia?

When it's winter in Japan it's summer in Australia, I thought that was weird.

4) Did this trip make you want to learn English more? - Yes!

5) What was your best memory in Australia?

I liked the Blue Mountains. It was very beautiful.





1) What was something that surprised you about Australia?

I thought it was interesting that schools are K-12 in Australia, because here the schools are separated into elementary, middle school, and high school.

2) What was your favorite memory in Australia?

I really enjoyed Sydney because it is very big and different from here.

3) What made Sydney so different from here?

It was very big and there were a lot of people who looked very different from home.

4) Where would you recommend someone to go?

I recommend Cowra because even if its not a large tourist place, it is full of very nice people who treated us well.

5) Would you go back? Why?

Yes! I want to practice English again and there is still more that I want to see, like the Great Barrier Reef.



1) What did you do with your host family?

We played tennis, soccer, and we went fishing – but I caught nothing! Also, we did camping. It was fun, but so cold in night time that I could not sleep well.

2) What did you eat at your host family's house?

I had cornflakes for breakfast, gratin, roast meat with mashed potatoes, a very light curry...and I tried Vegemite. I don't like Vegemite!

3) What surprised you the most about Australian schools?

I was surprised that students eat snacks at recess time. And teachers seat on desks in class. Also, the chime was rock music!



4) What did you talk about with Australian students? – We did our self-introduction, using google to find translations. And they asked me some Japanese words they don't learn at school!

5) What was your favorite activity in Australia? – I rode a motorcycle for the first time. It was not a big one, but I enjoyed it a lot!



6) Did you experience any culture shock when you were in Australia?

At camping, people left the fire still burning and went away. Impossible to do that in Japan! Also in the men's toilet, there was no separation between the urinals so it was embarrassing.

7) What was your best memory? - In Sydney, we had a big sushi party all together, which was much fun. I enjoyed the hotel, too.

8) What would you like to do again? – I want to go there again and speak more English.

9) Do you want to go abroad somewhere again? Where, and why? – Yes, I do. For example, I want to go to New York in the USA, to see beautiful night views. I want to go to Italy, too, and enjoy delicious foods there, like the original pizzas.

Bonus question: What presents from Australia did you bring to Japan?

A shoulder bag, some chocolate, crocodile and kangaroo meat jerkies...and Vegemite!





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

Living and spending time together with my host family. They took me to the Japanese Garden and other places in Cowra. I was happy to participate in the homestay because I was able to learn about Australian culture and their way of living. Australians were really nice to me, so I want to give everyone my thanks. This homestay was a very valuable experience.

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

Rather than culture shock, I would say that the things that surprised me were their daily schedule. They got up early in the morning and also slept early in the evening so they probably don't get sick often was what I thought. Additionally, Australia's weather is the opposite of Japan so I thought I was going to catch a cold because of the cold weather. I learned about various things during my time there which I am grateful for.

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

Yes, I do. I regret not studying English more before I went to Australia. When people would talk to me, there were times I couldn't understand what they wanted to say and I got really flustered. There were also many things that I wanted to say but I couldn't get the meaning across or string the sentence together in English, so if another opportunity like this comes along I want to study harder.

4) What will you do if another opportunity to study abroad presents itself when you're in senior high school or university?

If another opportunity presents itself, I would like to do it again. I would like to study abroad somewhere even if it's not Australia. When that time comes, I want to learn about that country's culture and their language – even if it's a little bit. I want to study abroad in many countries and learn their culture and language.



5) Do you want to get a job that requires English?

Yes. I want to be either an English teacher or social studies teacher in the future so I'll continue studying hard. I'm not great at it but I really like English and I like it reasonably well as a subject. I've also thought about being a translator. I think that studying English will broaden the range of job opportunities that are available to me.

6) Is this your first time overseas? What other countries do you want to visit?

Yes, it was my first time travelling overseas so I had a lot of doubts but I was also excited about many things. I had a lot of fun travelling to a different country and next time I would like to visit India in the future and see the Taj Mahal. If I get the chance I would like to visit Australia again someday and also many other countries!

7) Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Yes! I had such a great experience and would love to visit Australia again.

8) Would you recommend this homestay program to other students?

Yes, if there were students in the grades below me who wanted to participate in this homestay program in the future, I would recommend it to them. I would tell them about the wonderful experiences I had and I think the number of people applying for this program will increase in the future. I want more people to have the same experience I had. I'm really glad I was able to participate in this homestay.

9) What message do you have for the residents of Cowra?

Thank you very much for having us. Thanks to everyone's help and support, we were able to have a really enjoyable homestay experience. I was able to learn a lot about the relationship between Australia and Japan, Australian culture and also the differences between the two countries. Thank you very much for the opportunity!



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

Playing video games and board games with my host family! We had a lot of fun and I felt like we got bonded a lot during these moments together.

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

I was surprised by the layout of the house and also how the food tasted.

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

Yes I want to study harder and improve my English speaking ability.

4) What will you do if another opportunity to study abroad presents itself when you're in senior high school or university?

Yes I would like to try it again in the future.

5) Do you want to get a job that requires English?

I'm not that good at English and I'm not too confident in my own abilities but a job that lets me use English occasionally would be nice.

6) Is this your first time overseas? What other countries do you want to visit?

It was my first time travelling overseas and next time I would like to travel somewhere in Europe such as France or England.

7) Do you want to visit Australia again someday? - Yes! Of course!

8) Would you recommend this homestay program to other students?

Yes, I would. There are lots of new sights and experiences waiting for you so please sign up!

9) What message do you have for the residents of Cowra?

Thank you very much for having us! I think Japan has a strong connection with Cowra and I want to tell other people about Cowra and about my experiences there. Please look after the students from Shiroishi next year, too!



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

Having a BBQ with my host family. We cooked and ate delicious lamb chops and baked potatoes. I also talked to my host mother a lot about the differences between Japan and Australia, and also what my usual every day life is like in Japan. I also felt like my English ability improved a lot during the homestay.



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

I was very surprised by the food culture in Australia. For example, I thought that Australian sausages would taste the same as the ones back home but the flavor was completely different! The sausages in Australia had a very meaty taste to them. Sausage rolls were also really delicious. I even had seconds! Also, there were so many different cuisines from different countries in Sydney. I found out that there were more than 200 sushi restaurants in Sydney alone! I was shocked.

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

Yes, because there were times when I couldn't communicate what I wanted to say very well and also times when I couldn't understand what the other person was saying. Therefore if another opportunity like this comes along, I want to study harder to improve myself.



4) What will you do if another opportunity to study abroad presents itself when you're in senior high school or university?

I would like to do it again. Since I've gained experience from the homestay in Cowra, I want to learn more about Australia. From now on, I want to be more proactive in studying English.

5) Do you want to get a job that requires English?

My dream right now is to become an elementary school teacher, but after having been on this homestay, I've become interested in having a job that is related to English in some way such as an English teacher or a teacher at a Japanese school. This homestay has motivated me to reflect on what I want to do in the future.

6) Is this your first time overseas? What other countries do you want to visit?

Yes, it was. Everything was different to what I was used to and I experienced culture shock but it was a good experience. I want to be better at using English so I would like to other English-speaking countries such as England.

7) Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Of course! Since going to Australia, my view on other foreign countries have changed. I want to go back to Australia and be more proactive when I communicate with people and foster international exchange.

8) What message do you have for the residents of Cowra?

The people of Cowra were very friendly and kind to me. When I went shopping in the supermarket, I thought about how nice the people here are. There is a lot of history between Cowra and Japan and we have a strong connection to Australia. Thank you very much!

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