



White Stone Journal



Newsletter by the ALTs of Shiroishi – 2017 年 10 月号 Vol.129 特別編集号

▲Assistant Language Teachers

◆特集：2017 オーストラリア友好親善訪問団◆

7月26日から8月3日の日程で、市内中学生10名と引率2名の訪問団がオーストラリアでホームステイや学校体験してきました。帰国後の生徒にALTが英語でインタビューしました。

オーストラリア

Toa Suzuki, Higashi JHS answered:



Questions from Frances:

1. Would you like to study abroad in Australia again? Or in another country? Would you like to go to an English-speaking country?

I would like to study in and travel to many countries. I would like to study in Australia again because it was a lot of fun. I would also like to study things such as art in America. I would also like to see Italy because of all the food!

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

English is a little difficult, so I am not sure right now if I would like a job that uses English.

3. What was the most interesting or the weirdest thing in Australia?

Instead of a Japanese style lunch, Australian students would bring their own lunch, or buy it. We also did not have a greeting like, いただきます.

4. What was your fondest memory in Australia?

Staying in Sydney and seeing things like Sydney Tower, the Opera House, and Harbor Bridge.

5. What were your favorite and least favorite foods?

I did not enjoy Vegemite too much, but I really liked the bread, different types of pork, and pizza too.

6. What was your favorite activity in school?

I enjoyed playing sports with the other students. We played cricket, touch football, soccer, dodgeball and basketball.

7. Did this trip inspire you to learn English or another language?

Yes, I'm really looking forward to continuing my English studies. I am also interesting in learning French.

8. What was it like talking to fellow Australian classmates?

It was fun learning from them and teaching them about the Japanese language and culture. I find that approaching people with candy or a casual introduction is a very useful icebreaker.

9. What kinds of animals did you see?

We saw kangaroos, koalas, peacocks, parrots, sheep, and cows.

10. Any advice for future study abroad students?

Make sure to talk a lot! Have a lot of heart in what you do, and you will have fun!





Questions from Billy:

1. Would you like to go to Australia again with your group?

Yes because it was very fun and interesting!

2. Do you want to study English harder after visiting Australia? Yes.

3. Do you want to get a job using English? Yes, I want to work in an airport.

4. What was the most shocking experience you had in Australia?

I was excited to see koalas but they only had 2 koalas in the zoo!

5. What we the most fun experience you had in Australia?

The most fun was when we had free time in Sydney to do lots of sightseeing. I really enjoyed visiting the Sydney Tower Eye.

6. Do you feel your English improved in Australia?

Yes, I think my listening and speaking skills improved the most.

7. What else did you learn in Australia that you want to share with others?

I want to share the difference in Australian culture from Japanese culture. For example, in Australia they never use chopsticks!



Wakana Yamada, Higashi JHS answered:

Questions from Divij:

1. Do you want to go to Australia to study again?

Yes, I do! And I want to go to other countries as well like America, England and other beautiful places in Europe.

2. What do you want to study?

I want to study English and P.E. in a different country to Japan where I can learn English!

3. Do you want a job using English?

Yes! It will be difficult but fun!

4. Favourite memory of Australia?

Visiting the school and playing sports like cricket, kick-tennis, touch rugby, soccer and a special game which was a mix between dodgeball and basketball!! I loved it! I loved TimTams but hated Vegemite!

5. Weirdest thing about their stay in Australia?

No one says 'ittekadimasu' before eating. Also everyone wears the same shoes everywhere unlike in Japan...Also, Australian kids bring food from home or buy it from the canteen.

6. What food did you like?

There was this fast food thing which we got near circular quay which was hot potato chips with pork meat on top. It was very delicious!





Questions from Kara:

1. How was it? (Using only one word!!!!!!!) Wonderful!
2. What did you do with your Host Family? We went to a farm by walking. We ate bread and maple syrup. I saw cows!
3. How did you `Break the Ice`? (How did you start conversations?) Eye contact and a smile!
4. What did you talk about? Japanese Culture!

5. What did you eat at your Host Family`s home?

I ate steak. Small pieces are easy to eat!

6. What was your favorite meal in Australia? Steak!!!!

7. What was your favorite activity in Australia?

The picnic! It was sunny but there were trees too!

8. What surprised you the most about Australian schools?

The school has an elective class: PE or French.

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

They study foreign languages.

10. What Japanese culture did you teach?

Calligraphy! They were good students! We used ink. They wrote their names in kanji.

11. Were they happy? Yes!

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

`Cool!' and they clapped.

13. What did you talk about with Australian Students?

Different classes and P.E.!

14. What was the most beautiful thing you saw?

The top of a stock farm view. I saw many, many cows and big kangaroos!

15. What sport/food do you want to learn about? Are you going to teach your friends?

Boff ball! I want to teach my friends!

16. What would you like to do again?

I want to go to [Australian] school again!

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

Yeah! For five years with the same Shiroishi members. We are good friends.

18. What do you want to do?

I want to meet my host family: the mother, father, and three sisters. We are good friends! I gave them *kendama* as a present.





Questions from Kara:

1. How was it? (Using only one word!!!!!!!) Exciting!

2. What did you do with your Host Family?

Fishing! I did fly fishing in the river!

3. Did you catch any fish? ...One...It was small...

4. How did you `Break the Ice`? (How did you start conversations?)

We talked about hobbies. Drawing pictures of animals and painting big illustrations. Tigers are my number one animal.

5. What did you eat at your Host Family`s home?

Steak! It was so big! Vegemite too; a lot of it!

6. What was your favorite meal in Australia?

I liked the steak! Very delicious! I ate white tiger! It was a palate-sized steak!

7. What was your favorite activity in Australia?

I liked rugby! No tackle, only catching the ball. I made new friends! I was happy!

8. Can you run zig-zag? Oh yes!

9. What surprised you the most about Australian schools? It's very serious. They study Japanese.

10. Did you help them with their Japanese? Yes. With *katakana* and *hiragana* study.

11. What Japanese culture did you teach? *Kendama*.

12. Were they good at it? So-so...

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

`Cool!!!!` Everyone got a try!

14. What did you talk about with Australian Students?

Japanese culture. They asked if I liked vegemite.

15. What did you say to that? No!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I don't like vegemite!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

16. What else did you talk about? We talked about hobbies. We talked about if we had girlfriends.

17. What was the most beautiful thing you saw?

The Sydney Opera House! I saw it on the ferry. It was sunny and warm.

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

Are you going to teach your friends? Rugby! I want to teach my friends. I like running!

19. Can you run Zig-Zag? Of course!

20. What would you like to do again? I want to go to Australian school. I want to do Australian sports.

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

Yes! I want to go for six years after university.

22. What do you want to do? Study Australian culture.

23. Any other funny stories? Yes! At Australian school, I said `Yes!` many times. They asked me to fight so I said `Yes!` but then my friend told me what they said!!!!!!!





Questions from Florence:

1. Could you tell us about your first impressions of Australia?

I was surprised to see so many non-Asian people at a time! Then on our way to Cowra, it was amazing to see the large prairies with cows, and the kangaroos.

2. What did you do with your host family?

I played tennis, netball, catchball and card games. We also visited the grand-parents' house in countryside, a big house with dogs and chickens, a pool and a trampoline. We had a barbeque and a home made cake.

3. How was communication?

I paid special attention to people's words and used a dictionary. So it was quite ok.

4. What was your biggest cultural shock?

To walk in houses with shoes!

5. What was the most challenging part of this trip?

In shops and restaurants it was hard to understand the staff members.

6. What was your best memory?

Visiting the Opera House and Harbour Bridge in Sydney.

7. Any advice to someone who wants to go overseas?

Use eye-contact and smile!

8. Would you like to do the same trip again? Do you want to visit another country? If so, where?

Yes. I want to go to America.

9. Do you want to use English in your future job?

I enjoy speaking English, so I want to go to foreign countries so I can speak a lot. For my future job, too.



★ちよこっと質問！ VEGIMITE (ベジマイト) って何？★



ベジマイトは、オーストラリアで生産されているペースト状の発酵食品です。味は塩辛く、そのため味を和らげるためにバターやチーズと一緒にパンに薄く塗って食べるといいですよ(^_-)☆





Airi Sato, Shirakawa JHS answered:

Questions from Florence:

1. Could you tell us about your first impressions of Australia?

It's a beautiful country.

2. What did you do with your host family?

I played tennis, table tennis, rode a bicycle... We went to see beautiful views. And we went to a shopping mall.

3. How was communication?

Different. I used a lot of gestures. But it was still difficult.

4. What was your biggest cultural shock?

To see so many sweets!

5. What was the most challenging part of this trip?

To present the Japanese tea ceremony at the Japanese Garden.

6. What was your best memory?

The Opera House. And our free time in Sydney* going to a stationery shop, a supermarket...

7. Any advice to someone who wants to go overseas?

Try to communicate a lot with your host family, and you can communicate easily everywhere else.

8. Would you like to do the same trip again? Do you want to visit another country? If so, where?

Yes. I'd like to go to New York in America.

9. Do you want to use English in your future job?

Yes, I do.

10. Will you study English harder than before?

Yes!





Questions from Richard:

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

The most memorable moment of my trip were the days spent at my homestay. I got along really well with my host family and they took me to a lot of places. Leisurely walking with my host family to all these places left a strong impression with me and I was able to view beautiful sceneries that were completely different to the ones in Shiroishi.

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

Bedtime was a lot earlier than what I was used to and I was happy when they came to say "Goodnight" to me before I went to bed. Also, during free time in Japanese schools, there are lots of rules that you need to follow, but in Australia, you can eat snacks during your free time and I feel that school life in Australia is very free and open.

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

I want to study harder and be able to communicate in English. During my homestay, there were a lot of things I wanted to say so I want to learn and memorize more words and be able to speak English better.

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

I haven't thought about it. However, if another opportunity comes again in the future, I think I would like to interact with people from around the world. For now, I will continue doing my best to study English and when the chance to study abroad arises, I will think about it some more.

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

No matter what kind of job I get, I'm sure that that there will be an opportunity for me to use English. So when I'm deciding on a job, I want one that makes use of English.

6. Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Yes, I want to have another look at the beautiful sceneries of Australia. Also, there are a lot of nice people in Australia and I want to talk with many of them.





解団式



Questions from Richard:

1. What was your favorite Australian food?

I don't know what it's called, but during my stay I ate a chocolate cake that been stuffed inside an orange peel and then toasted using fire. It was delicious! I haven't had anything like that before and I really want to try it again someday.

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

Australian houses all have large gardens and backyards, and I kept thinking, "Australia is such a big country". People from around the neighborhood would come over and we would play around and have a BBQ in the backyard. My homestay brother also drove us around the backyard on a 4WD which was really fun!

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

I want to study English more and be able to talk with native English speakers. Even though I could understand what other people were saying, I wasn't able to convey what I wanted to express in words so I want to improve on my speaking ability.

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 study abroad even if it's a country other than Australia. I'm interested in other languages besides English too and I think that I will be able to make use of them in the future. After participating in this homestay program, I feel like I better understand what it's like to study abroad so I'd like to do it again in the future.

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

Yes, I've been thinking of finding a job that allows me to use English, therefore I would like to improve my speaking ability by actively talking to and interacting with the ALTs at my school. Additionally, I want to take the EIKEN Test before I graduate and increase my current level by two grades.



6. Do you want to visit Australia again someday?

Yes! I want to see my homestay family again and do another homestay in Australia. There are a lot of wonderful and fascinating things about Australia and I want to go there again with the same group as last time and visit places we haven't been to before.





◆PHOTO ALBUM 2017◆



Like!



編集室～「他国を知って自国を知る」短期間ではありましたが、異国の文化や習慣に触れ日本という国を見つめ直す機会を持たれたことは大変良かったと思います。今回の訪問団員のほとんどが「また何年後か同じメンバーでオーストラリアを訪問したい、将来英語に関わる仕事がしたい」と話してくれました。今後の活躍がとても楽しみです～(^)♪



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Please visit our website: www.city.shiroishi.miyagi.jp/soshiki/1/1245.html

