

# canberra



## view of canberra

Canberra is our first city to stay in this Exchange Programme. Canberra is the capital of Australia. There are two ways of saying about why Canberra is chosen as the capital of Australia. The first one is Canberra is the mid-point of two rival cities-Melbourne and Sydney and so it can be a balance of the two cities. Another one is Canberra is away from the sea and can be protected from attack.

No doubt Canberra is a beautiful city. All things in the city are well planned for the purpose of keeping the environment clean and green. Roads are straight and easy to access in order to keep low traffic. Trees are built everywhere to keep the air clean and environmentally friendly. All buildings in this city are not high so as to keep a better view of the city. When you see from Telstra Tower, which is almost the highest building in Canberra, you can see it is like a picture.

There are quite a number of important buildings in this city. Parliament House, National Library and the War Memorial are located there. These buildings are designed in a way to match the environment. Like the Parliament House, it is built inside a mountain and on top of the building, it is a piece of grassland where people can picnic and can step on it.





## Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

Tidbinbilla is a unique valley nestled in the mountain only 40 minutes from Canberra. Having lived in the forest of concrete for too long, we were all very excited to get in touch with the real wild life. We were surprised to find out the lovely Koala lived so high up on the gum trees! We had to use binoculars in order to see them clearly. With the help of the helpful ranger--Michael, we found 4 koalas altogether. They are just so cute as we imagined.

On the contrary, the kangaroos didn't seem to welcome us, they were all hiding in the bushes because of the heat. However we were not disappointed because our kind driver--Ron, took us to Tralee Station (a farm nearby). We can even feed the kangaroos ourselves! We enjoyed the breathing-taking beauty of Tidbinbilla while sharing the delicious picnic. The superb lyrebird attracted us and all of us put down the food and rushed to take photos with them!





## Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex (CDSCC)

CDSCC is one of 3 space stations of NASA (the other 2 are in Spain, California respectively). It was opened in 1969 and there were 6 antennas altogether. The largest antenna has a diameter of 70 meter, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The dish surface is approximately the size of a rugby playing field and consists of 1568 aluminum dish panels. This antenna made such a spectacle in this quiet valley! One of the staff Sarah welcomed us and told us how the station functions: CDSCC can be thought of as a post office. It receives and sends packages of information between spacecraft and the research scientists on Earth. These radio antennas are used to communicate with spacecraft that may be billions of kilometers away by microwaves. Some of us are very interested in the games set up in the museum. We could not only gain knowledge but also have fun!



**New  
Parliament  
House**





## New Parliament House

Everyone looks very smart today--we are all dressed up to visit the one of the world's most prestigious and acclaimed buildings. A lady working in the parliament (Jane Clare) guided us through the building and told us the why the building is an integration of art and architecture. The use of marble and timber in the Foyer provides a link to the arrivals of Europeans to Australia. The Great Hall, which is open to public use for 800-1200 people, is based on a painting by Australian artist Arthur Boyd. It features a eucalyptus forest in the Shoalhaven area of New South Wales. Measuring 20 x 9 metres, it is one of the largest tapestries in the world. Actually there are artworks everywhere, especially the flagmast, which cost 4.4 million to build.

Although some of us are not interested in Politics at first, we were attracted by Jane's speech about the structure of the Commonwealth Parliament and how a bill can be passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate. It was informative indeed.



## Australian War Memorial

Australian War Memorial is undoubtedly one of the most noticeable buildings in Canberra. As soon as we stepped into the war memorial, the sacred atmosphere overwhelmed us. It was a museum with an extensive collection of art, relics, photographs, rare film and sound recordings. These exhibitions evoke the history of Australians in war, armed conflict and peacekeeping. The shrine displays the spirit of Australian and is a tribute to all Australians who sacrificed their lives in the war.

Mr Edwards is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian War Memorial Foundation. He told us the Memorial is to help the people to understand the heritage, not to glorify the war. Australians are so brave and selfless--1/6 of the population participated in the First World War.



## Australian National University (ANU)

ANU is the No 1 in Australia and is also one of the most beautiful campus that we have seen. Sitting by a lake, modern academic buildings and student halls are covered by a huge range of trees. It is like a big park. Naomi and Italia, the two friendly girls, showed us the campus--the student hall, the library, student unions, computer centers and the biggest kitchen that we have even seen! No wonder it has attracted more than 1000 students from all over the world.

What makes ANU world famous, is its outstanding academic achievements and state of art facilities. To name a few, 3 Nobel Prizes have been won by ANU researchers and the library holds 2 million books.



## Chinese Embassy

What made me proud of the Chinese Embassy in Canberra was its magnificent design. As long as I looked upon it, I could not help but immediately thought of “dim sum”, the authentic Chinese dishes, for it looked no other than Chinese restaurants which were so common all over South China. What filled up my mind was a sort of homesickness only when we wandered around the building, not to mention after walking in.

## Canberra Chinese Christian Church

It was a kind of weird to go to a Church during the trip before we met the hosts and a couple of Chinese students who were currently undergraduates in Australia National University there. Canberra Chinese Christian Church did not only serve for a place where Chinese Christians could worship the God but also a meeting point for Ethnic Chinese in Canberra. There were around 7,000 Chinese residing in the Capital of Australia, as we were told during the meeting. And, we really had a great time in exchanging ideas after having a talk with the local students.



## Farewell Dinner

After spending about 4 days with our host families, everyone built up a very close relationship with each other. Before the dinner, Group B performed a role-play to introduce our traditional Chinese festivals, Hungry Ghost Festival and Mid-autumn festival. Then there came the Chinese opera. Besides, Group A showed our host families the customs of Chinese New Year and invited them to draw calligraphy. The participation was very encouraging. The performance ended up with applause and laughs.

The most exciting moment was the greetings to our host families from each of us. The scene was very touching with hugs and tears. Everyone felt upset because all of us didn't want to say goodbye, however, it was time for us to learn.

This farewell meant that it was the end of our stay in Canberra, and also the start of our outward bound training. But it was never the end of the story between us and our great host families. The friendship will last forever and the memories will remain in our mind for our whole life.

