

# homestay programme

## Vera

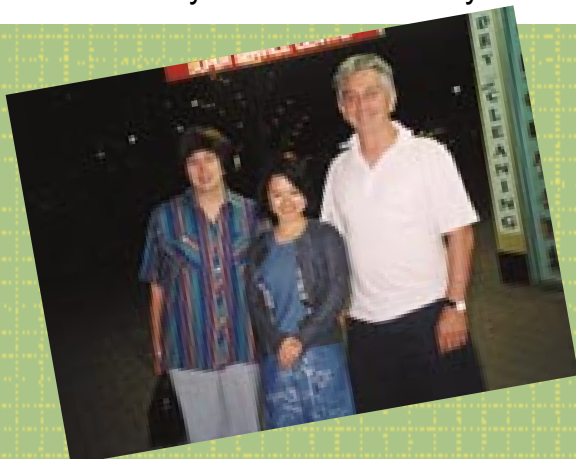
### CAMBERRA

I'm sure Mandy will agree with me that Janelle and Derek were one of the best host families in our trip. They had a lovely house, with a terrace and a lovely garden. Janelle was working as a part-time nurse. We definitely shared a lot in common since I am a medical student.

Derek was a retired public servant. The impression he gave me was that he was a very knowledgeable and understandable gentleman.

### SYNDEY

Peter and Jully were busy working people so I was very grateful that they could host me. I feel very warm because Jully paid attention to every details of my stay in Sydney. She even asked her 3 sons to sleep in the living room in order to spare the fan for me. Every morning she would prepare a bottle of iced water for me so that I wouldn't be overwhelmed by the heat in the daytime.



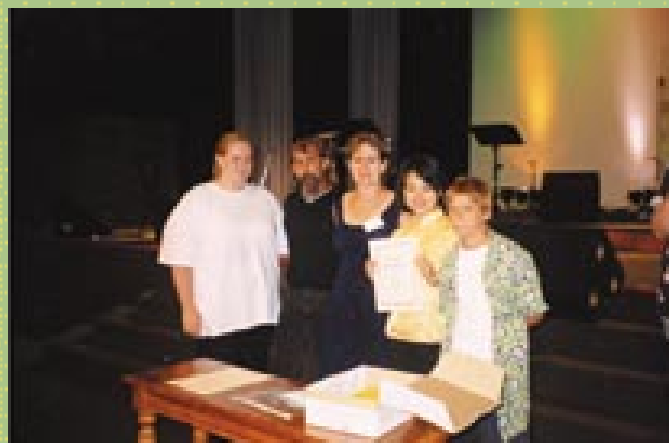
My host family in Sydney is very different from that in Canberra. They live with their three children whose age range from twenty to ten. The family is like a pet house. There are three cats and two dogs in the house. Even though I am not fond of dogs, I still think that they are lovely and cute. Bit it's a pity that I do not have much time to spend with them. But I still treasure the chance to stay with them.



## Michelle

My host family in Canberra-Jeff and Jan, is a pair of nice couples. Jeff works in Police Force and Jan owns a kitchen shop and a kitchen school in Canberra.

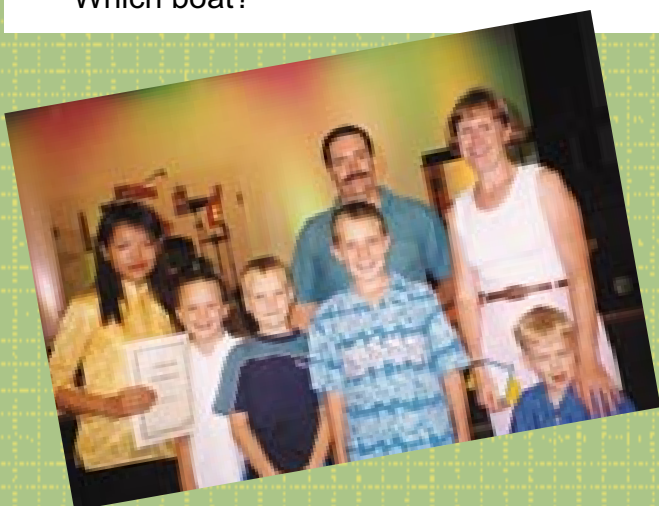
To me, the greatest impression to live with them is their healthy living style-less meat, more vegetables, a cup of tea every night to wash away the grease in your body.... Needless to say, Jeff talks a lot about things in Police Force. The most exciting event is to follow him to fight crime in the city area in Canberra. The scene at that time was like a movie. I could never imagine it could happen in real life.





Australia is no doubt a multicultural country. The marriage between Chabby and Elaine, my host parents in Sydney, is a perfect demonstration of such nature. Chabby is originated from Motta, an isle near Italy, while Elaine is Scottish.

It is tolerance that makes multicultural nation possible, and I had a chance to put my tolerance to the test during the trip too. On the day I reached Chabby's home, it was the birthday of Michael's buddy, Andrew, so that we went to his house upon invitation in the evening. There had already been a crowd in Andrew's house. In front of a table set a lady, who was one of Andrew's aunts, with a glass of wine in her hand. After Elaine introduced me to her by saying that I was from China, I was stunned by her sudden question, "Which boat?"



In Sydney, I stayed with Brook's family. My host mother was Wendy and my host father was Kevin. They have four kids, all of them were very funny and lovely, namely, Christopher, Jessica, Luke and the elderly son, Samuel. Samuel always said my name "icy, icy" but was too shy to say. My host parents were teachers and they were very kind and always took care of me. As the family had many kids, it was very warm! I enjoyed swimming with the kids, playing snooker with them and talking with my host parents, I miss them so much as well!

## Frank

Canberra

A sweet couple plus a lovely four-year old girl is equal to the Mason's family with whom I had a great time to stay in Canberra. Their romantic story started with an occasion where Anthony, my host daddy, first met my host mom, Kate, in Moscow. As long as I learnt that my host mom was from New York, I felt we shared more in common in a sense that I had spent last semester in the United States. They were indeed very nice and kind to me and treated me like their daughter, Rose.



## Icy

I visited Canberra and Sydney. Doris and I shared the same host in Canberra while I lived alone with my host families in Sydney. In Canberra, our host was Hinde's family. Pam was our host mother and she had one daughter, Melanie. It was the first time for me to live in a host family. At first, I was a little bit scared. However, when I met the host family, all my worries were gone. They are very nice and brought Doris and I to many places. It was so funny that the Australians like rice very much. So I had rice for dinner every night.



### Coleiro's Family

My host daddy in Sydney, Ray Coleiro, was a big fan of tennis. He was a funny guy with curly hair, and a talkative person. He would always fall asleep when he was watching TV. His wife, Lyn, was a friendly and careful person, a good listener. She loved to learn different culture, making beautiful handicraft.



### **Cirrus**

I stayed with John and Sue in Canberra. Both of them were very nice. They let Kelly and me to experience the Australian's sense of humor. They always told us jokes and the funny things happened in their family. We always chatted till mid-night, talking about the culture and the social behavior in Australia. I cannot forget the cocktail in Hyatt and the pool in the pub.

### **Patsy**

#### Browne's family

Jeoff Browne was intelligent, handsome. He liked taking pictures when flying his plane. His store of wine and beer were also in my mind. His wife, Lizz, was so friendly that she always kept a smiling face. She was also a nice person to talk with. Her handicraft impressed Ruby and me as well.

I would really like to thank them all for having kept me as their guests.



### **Regina**

In Canberra, Sarah and I shared the same host, the John's Family. The family members are Natalie and John (host mother and host father), the twins Luke and Christine, the youngest and lovely daughter Emily. They were very eager to know our culture, especially John and Natalie. Sarah and I told them about us and showed them how to cook the Chinese food. In the meantime, they also introduced us the delicious Australian food and their culture. We had a good time. In Sydney, I stayed with Andrew, Tracy, Rebecca and Michael. I remembered the first day we met, they treated me as their best friend and talked and played with me for a whole afternoon. After I chatted with them, I knew that they had received many exchange students before and I was so honourable to be their first student from Hong Kong. I loved to play with Rebecca and we shared our happiness together.



Christian was my host mum in Sydney. Staying with Christian's family made me feel like I was just staying at home. Grandma, Christian and three pretty girls were like my inborn family members. Christian took me to different places, like her working place and the Blue Mountain, even under very high temperature.

I would like to say "thank you" to John, Sue, Grandma, Christian, Rebecca and Hanna for giving me such a wonderful time.

## Doris

### Canberra

I was excited to be welcome by a cute dog and a lovely kitty as long as I stepped in Pam's house with my group mate, Icy. Her home was so neat and tidy that it's absolutely different from mine. Pam was a good cook too!



## Sydne

Galea's family was wonderful! Apart from Jone Galea and his wife, there were 6 children, 5 were girls and one boy. What surprised me the most were the playground and a game house in his house.

I will never forget what Mrs. Galea told me, "We can never stop learning in our lives, even though I'm now a mother of 6 children, I'm still learning."



## Howard

### Canberra

If you ask me to describe Brent's family, my answer is nothing but the word, "perfect". During the few days in Canberra, they played as a perfect "tour guide" to bring me walking around the whole city of Canberra. I would like to say many thanks to them for giving me this warm experience.

## Sydney

"Warm" is the term I used to describe the White's family. Why did I say so? Because the White's family has 3 sons and 1 daughter-----a big family! For the first time I met them, I still remember the hugs from the four "Monkeys". Their lovely face and their happy smiles gave me a strong feeling of happiness.



## Laurence

### Belley's Family

I was staying at the Belley's family together with Isabel. Angie was my host mom. She was stern in appearance, but extremely caring. She was environmentally alert, as there were three different rubbish bins in her house, sorting different garbage for the sake of preserving the environment.

### Kenfith' Family

Thanks Peter, Debbie, Bredon, Shannon, Bradley and Karls for giving me such a marvelous home stay. I really experienced a very warm family in these three days. Peter was my host dad. He set an excellent example to me of being a good father. He took great care of his four children by giving them the best of the best. He also had a good sense of humor. I pretty enjoyed talking with him.

## Cherie

### Canberra:

There were five members in my host family: Chris, Janice, Alice, Lucy and Harry. They were very nice and friendly, and they treated me as their family's member, and I was really comfortable and warm to stay with them.



## Sydney

Every time when I saw the little teddy, I would think of you, Kim. Kim is my host Mum, she gave me a hand-made teddy before I left, and she told me that if I saw the teddy, I would remember her. Yes, she was right, I do not only remember her, and I miss her much.



## Sarah

Let me say a big "thanks" to my two host families of this trip. First of all, I thank John and Natalie, who were very kind and treated Regina and I as their daughters. It was indeed like I was staying at home for those few days. I really enjoyed cooking, chatting, shopping, riding a horse and swimming with you. (Little lonely Emily) Of course, I will never forget all the memories with all of you.



Then, I also want to thank the Little family, especially Marianne. Even though time was so short for us to stay together, I really enjoyed the time spent with you. You also gave me so much insight, and you were a very caring host mother. For Wendy and Elizabeth, thank you again for your company during those few days. Miss you all !!!

## Simon

I am the only child in my family. In this trip, I had a deep experience of what family sense was. My first Host Mom, Joanne, who has 5 children, two dogs and one cat. I could never forget we played games by 2 on 2 with two little kids as our cheering team.

In my second host family, I had a chat with family members that was so deep which I had never imagined before. With my host father, Lex, we talked about the politics in Australia as he is one of the members of a political party. So he gave me a sense of what politics is. With Edwina, my host mom, we talked about the differences between boys and girls, the meaning of marriage and religion which inspired me a lot.



## Mandy

The hospitality and caring of the host families impressed me a lot. They treated me as one of their family members and we do keep in touch through mails.

I find the life in Canberra is more relaxing and peaceful while that in Sydney is more entertaining, colorful and rushing. I am now thinking of migrating to Canberra after my retirement!





## Ruby

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my two host families, the Browne's in Canberra and the Williams' in Sydney. Without them, my exchange trip would never be a complete one.

Thanks to Liz and Geoff, who had to get up early every morning to go to work but still spared me the time to talk to me at night. I think they are such a sweet couple and so are their kids Andrew and Bethany, who are always talkative and energetic.

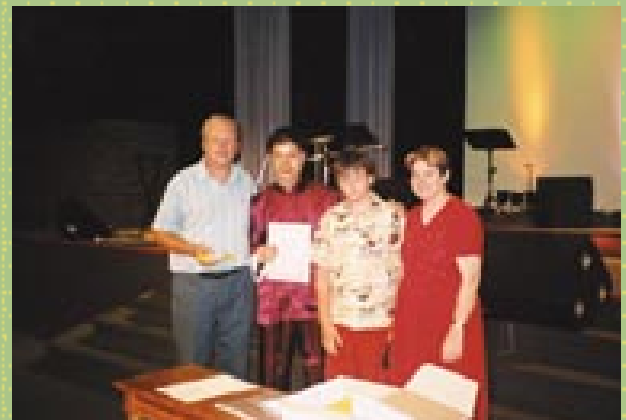
My other host family, Kerrey and Steve together with their kids Tod, Olivia, Ainslie and last but not least Alex (yes you are never excluded!) have given me a great time. I was extremely happy that they took me out for movie, to have a delicious Italian meal as well as to play aqua golf. Thank you for allowing me to stay with you. I enjoyed spending the time with all of you and I wish I could stay longer. I miss you all !!!



## Sam

The home stay programme was absolutely the highlight of this trip .In fact , I had a wonderful time with both of my host families. My host in Canberra was Jan and Jeff Brown, a nice couple. Jeff is a police officer and probably he will be a member in the Parliament a few years later. To my surprise, he knows lots about China and the East.

I had another host family in Sydney. The host family consists of 4 members: my host-dad, Inn, my host-mom, Robyn, my host-brother, Adam and also the lovely and energetic dog . All of them are Christians and they go to the church every Sunday. Although the two families are quite different, they are all nice people. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them.





## Loretta

Staying with the host families were definitely the highlights of my trips. Without that, I would never get the chance to see the real lives of Australians. We can never say which culture is better but we can always appreciate each other's and to be more cultural sensitive especially when you are abroad. What do I remember from my host families?

I remember that both the Kelly family and Inglow family are very sweet families.

What I really appreciate was not only the food they made or the comfortable bed I had. Instead, I was impressed that they were so open-minded and always took the initiative to know more about my home country and my culture. Thanks for everything.

## Judy

I was assigned to two host families. My family in Canberra has two kids. It was an interesting experience in living with a lovely little girl in the same room and shared with her toys because I am longing for having a sister for years. My host father and mother are very nice person. I did enjoy the time to walk with them after dinner with the beautiful scenery and their home-like treat for me. I was brought to a large zoo and Telstra Tower where I had a quick look on all sorts of precious animals in Australia and a 360\_view in Canberra.



I can never forget the dinner sitting beside the lake and facing the blue mountain with my family in Sydney. We shared a lot every night and I had a better understanding of Australia from them.



## Pat

I was so excited as it was my first time to join a Homestay Programme. Kerry is my host mum in Canberra. I stayed with them for four days. I bought a Chinese-style teapot and Chinese tea to her as souvenirs. We enjoyed Chinese tea every night whilst chatting.



In Sydney, I stayed with Griffiths' family for three days. Jeff and Kerry are my host parents. They have two sons, Kieran and Jon-Luc, who are twelve and six years old respectively.

The couple was very interested in Hong Kong. We discussed many issues of Hong Kong, no matter it was about politics, economy, culture, legal, living styles and so on. Comparisons between Hong Kong and Australia were also touched on. On the other hand, they were so caring that salad and cold drink were prepared for me every meal because it was over 40OC every day in Sydney during my visit.



## Annie

When I first learnt that I need to stay with my host family alone, I was very scared. Monica, who is our group coordinator during daytime, and then become my host mother after finishing the official activities everyday. Even though she was busy for contacting other host families at night and could not accompany with me all the times during these few days, I learnt a lot, including how to organise the big meal, and other preparation work before the cultural presentation, etc. I am glad that I can help her during the process.

My second host family is the Carson's family. They are very nice. I felt very warm and I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to them. It was unforgettable that they drove me to the Blue Mountains to see the wonderful view of The Three Sisters.





## Isabel

Canberra:

I had a great stay in the Belly Family. Angela, thanks a lot for taking care of Laurence and me, and most importantly, thanks for treating us as your own kids. It is interesting to find an evil twin sister out there in Australia!

Sydney:

I was born in a big family, in which I have 2 elder brothers and 3 elder sisters. Having taken care by Philip and Annie, I finally had the chance to undergo the brand new experience of being the only child! This couple is a really lovely one of all I have ever met before. Perhaps it is the western culture; they made me feel embarrassed for times they are so expressive with their love. ^\_\_^ Annie is a talented designer and her house looks fantastic, and I will always remember the sweet rose smell there!

## Kelly

John and Sue McCarthy were my host parents in Canberra. They were so nice to me that I could feel their passion during my stay - as if I were their daughter. Even now, my mind is always flooded with the precious moments I had in Canberra: the nights we spent together talking about ourselves, our life and goals; the Fish & Chips\_ tasty dessert and the “cute” waiter; a long walk near the Lake with Dante (an Italian Supernino) .....etc



I stayed with the Alewood family in Sydney. Or, more accurately, with the “Buddha’s family”. Since my host Dad, Phillip, got a very big tummy which makes him well known to be a “Buddha” among his family members and friends. Wendy, thanks for preparing the breakfast for me every morning even though I got up very late.

