



Reflections

Crystal Lam Sze Nga

“The top of the world is crying, because my favourite girls are going...” this was what Mum said to me in the morning I left. We brought the rain to Brisbane on the first day we arrived. Then we brought the rain back.

This two-week trip came so fast and passed so quickly. I can still remember how excited I was when I knew I got the offer to Brisbane, how worried I was before I left and how sad in the morning we returned.

I am sure that the end of the trip is the beginning of the story between Brisbane and me as exchanging in culture, love and friendship undoubtedly continue.

Eva Wong Ka Wai

I am outgoing and keen on accepting challenges. I love making friends and trying what I have never experienced. And this programme provided me such opportunities. Not only did I make 15 new friends, but also get a chance to experience the life in Australia. Koalas, kangaroos, the Dreamworld, wetland and gold coast, all of them made me thrilled. By the way, I need to tell you that I do enjoy staying with my host family. I knew more the local life in this period. What a fascinating experience!

Erica Chan Yuk Luen

Sixteen represents a group of beautiful people. We have gone through so much that I personally think that we are a successful team. We were able to laugh often and much, find the best in others, try our best each and every day, and we really made a difference on each other.

Sunshine, fun, challenges and ever-burning spirits have made this programme a remarkable one. This is my first trip to Australia, everything seemed untouchable yet full of expectation. Remembering the first time that sixteen of us met, we were total strangers to each other. Throughout the whole month long preparation time, we got to know each other a bit better. And the fortnight in Brisbane, we learnt together, played together and kicked out the problems altogether, I am glad to say that we are buddies now.

Gloria Wong Pui Sze

Being a Hong Kong youth ambassador to Australia is a unique opportunity to get to know the people of Australia, their country and culture as well as to promote Hong Kong. The most enjoyable things in the trip were travelling with our energetic and co-operative group members as well as living with a warm and kind Australian family.

In this trip, I tried a lot of new things, such as meeting the Australia mayor, performing in front of foreigners, cooking the Chinese dishes for my host family and having the Australian style barbecue. In addition, I had a greater understanding of my country by experiencing the cultural differences and discussing with the Australian. I found that learning happens everywhere, not just in school. I shall never forget this wonderful holiday.

Gloria Lai Shuk Ching

This trip to Brisbane is a memorable one for me. It has given me many first-time experiences: the first time to travel to Australia; visit the city council and parliament house of a city and state; be able to talk with the chairman of the city council and the founder of the china town. I learnt the importance of cooperation and trust in a team in order to be successful in the leadership-training course which I found very useful for my future career development.

In fact, the most precious thing I gained throughout the tour is friendship. From the very beginning when we prepared our cultural performance before the trip, we had already been very closed and full of happiness. During the tour when I came across some problems, they showed me great concern and care which I will never forget. I really want to thank all of you who have given me the sweetest memory. You are the brightest and warmest-hearted group I have ever met! Thank you very much!

Vivian Chan Yin Wan

This summer is unforgettable. I was glad that I have participated in this International Youth Exchange Programme and spent 12 days in Brisbane, a city full of passion and excitement. I gained much more than what I expected beforehand. I learned many things from the Australians, these includes their friendliness, their passion and their way of life. What I cherished most in this trip was the friendships I have built with my host, the Bittenbinder family and my fellow teammates. They all had brightened this trip a lot. And these beautiful memories will be in my mind for the rest of my life.

Idy Ho Wing Yan

During this summer vacation, my dream finally came true. I got the opportunity to widen my horizon abroad. My life was enriched a lot. I enjoyed my trip in Brisbane very much. The scenery was of natural beauty. The sky was blue and the sea was clear. The most fruitful experience within the whole trip was my stay in my host family. They took care of my daily life and even my feeling. In the past, I used to be afraid of animals. Now, I am brave enough to touch the animals and this is what I am proud of myself.

Lastly, although I sacrificed several opportunities of doing summer job and taking summer course in order to complete this exchange programme, it was worthwhile. I am sure that I would regret if I had given up this invaluable experience.

Rita Tsang Wai Tak

I was amused by what I have seen in this trip. There were some places where ordinary visitors could not go, for example, the Parliament House, Police Headquarter, City Council. I love living in Australia. The slow pace of living and their affection to nature made me relax. I forgot all the pressure when staying in Australia. I WANT TO STAY IN BRISBANE FOREVER!!!

From this trip, I learned many things: the Australian culture, communication skills, working in a team and some good characters of my fellows. You are the ones who filled my days with laughter and excitements and made the trip be a memorable one. I want to say: 'Your love has put me on the top of the world...' (The song we sang at the farewell party) I LOVE YOU ALL!!!

Maggie Wong Ya Sin

It is really hard to express my feelings towards this trip in just a few words. I will try my very best to summarize it in the following.

Surprise! The birthday party they held for me during the trip was unquestionably out of my expectation. I was extremely heart-touched by their plan. I will not forget this surprising birthday! (One of the reasons is because there were so many birthday cakes)

Fun! The days to Dreamworld and Lone Pine Sanctuary were full of fun. Albeit I did not try the Tower of Terror, I tried some other rides that I had never tried. Walking among as well as feeding the kangaroos were very interesting. Never had I thought of such thing would happen.

Happy: What I say, of course, is about the homestay. Miu and I could get along well with Rosemary and Roger, treating us as if we were their daughters. My nervousness about the homestay before the trip was totally disappeared.

Eric Kwan Ming

“Bravo! We did great!” Thanks to every one of my group mates, to make the trip so successful, wonderful and memorable... Trip was over, and finally we peacefully arrived home. Goodbye is sadness but also joy to welcome a new start in our life.

I am sure every one has gained a lot and been more mature after all we had gone through in the program. I wish we all did better in the way to achieve another brighter goal.

Samuel Li Kui Chuen

The IYEP is really a meaningful and valuable programme for Hong Kong youth. The whole trip is so unforgettable. What we learnt were not only the history and development of Australia, but also the essential elements for our growth such as communication skills and leadership. Now, I know how to keep the group in harmony. I discovered my own strength and weakness through the leadership programme. I think all of us have understood the importance of “learning to learn” through our whole life after the programme. We will succeed by joining the successful IYEP!

Johnny Lam Shiu Fung

In these two weeks in Brisbane, I really think that I am more mature than before. Although we spent a lot of time and effort in the whole trip including preparation, it is worthwhile. We gained a lot from the trip. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed in the programme.

Rosemary, Ms Ho, Mr. Ko, Mr. Man, Rod and Tony, Thank for your wonderful arrangement. My dear host parents, Maurice and Roxanna, thank you. Your kindness made me warm in Brisbane so that I didn't have homesick in those twelve days. I am so happy to be one of your family members. I love both of you.

Finally, I have to take this opportunity to thank all my teammates. Without your support and participation, our trip would not have been so enjoyable, fruitful and successful. I love all of you.

Sandy Cheung Hin Ting

Top Of The IYEP (from TOP OF THE
WORLD ㊀ Carpenters)

Such a feelings coming over me,
There was wonder in most everyone I met,
But the preparations brought us close
together,
Hot pot, karaoke and video.

Twenty-third of July on the plane,
We were happy, playing, chatting, having fun.
And the reason is clear, it's because you are
here,
You're the nearest thing to heaven that I've
seen.

*I'm on the top of the IYEP,
Above creation, and the only explanation I
can find,
Is the love that I've found?
Ever since you've been around,
Your loves put me at the top of the world*

In the coach, we never stopped giggling,
Just because of your jokes and your funny face.
“Did you sleep well last night?”, “Have you
taken your pills?”
Fever and illness have all been swept away.

There is only one wish on my mind,
Let the day postponed until the end of life,
After blinking an eye, an exciting day past
Twelve days - Too short, too fast, too quick,
too few.

I'm on the top of the IYEP.
Shopping for cheapies from the Target,
Duty Free and Sunny Bank,
Crazy rides in Dreamworld,
“Pillow Talk” until midnight,
They're meaningful just because of you.

I'm on the top of the world, albeit
today is third of August. Waving hands with
tears coming out.
Memory never fades
Even though we're apart.
All I want to say is “I Love You All”

Yvonne Law Tsz Kwan

I believe it is a heaven-sent opportunity to
receive such a present from the Government. I
benefited a lot from the exchange programme.
Although there were demanding tasks
sometimes, we still found it worthwhile to
participate. From the preparation work to the
paper work after the trip, I learned a lot such
as filming videotape, performing Chinese
Dance, doing researches, knowing more about
Hong Kong, communicating with foreigners,
so on and so forth. This trip also brought me
friendships from other delegates and love from
the host family. All these were out of my
expectations, and because of this, I really
enjoyed, experienced and learned!

Miu Cheung Miu Shan

I am pleased that I got this chance to join this
trip.
I was so happy to meet many friends, visit so
many places and live with host family.
I will never forget these sweet memories!

Florence Tsuen Yuen Man

It appears to me that everything is still a
dream. We, the delegates from different
backgrounds, worked for the same target and
paid all our effort to prepare for the trip.

Through the visit, I got a clear picture in
the political, educational and social aspects of
Australia. It also provided me a chance to
share our cultures with each other. All these
were valuable treasures I found in this trip!

In order to avoid waking up from the
dream, I keep on the same eating habit as in
Australia for my lunch!