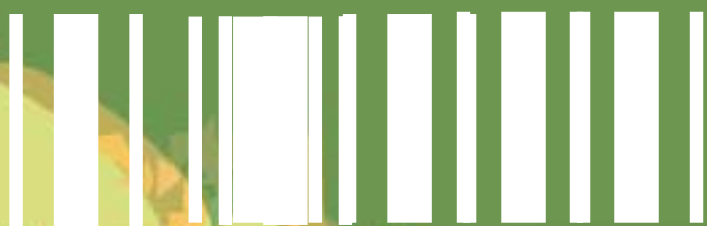
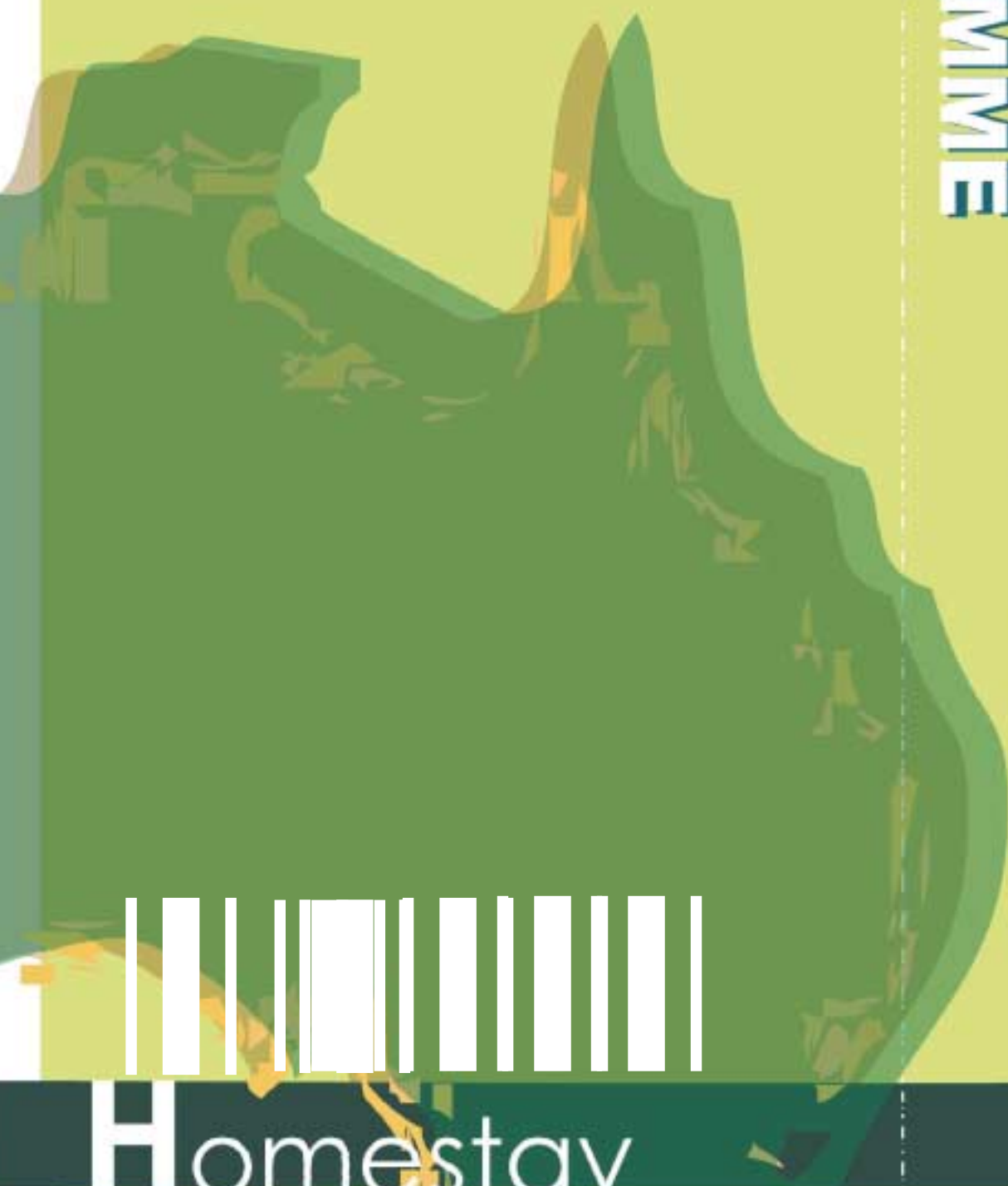


INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



Homestay



CRYSTAL RITA

Hearing that we would have the home stay for almost two weeks, we were very worried because we have to stay with some strangers for 2 weeks! It would be too long! We worried that they might be very mean and the food might not suit us. Yet, these worries were worthless. Our host family is the BEST!!!

We have a lovely Mummy who is beautiful and cheerful. She treated her children as her friends and we always had fun together. She also took good care of us. She brought us to the meeting point to ensure we would not get lost (but we still got lost when we went home... Sorry MUM). The meals she prepared for us were just excellent!

Our Dad is strong and smart. He is a very good father and husband. We can still remember how he helped out in the kitchen every evening and the special breakfast he made in the morning before he left. We have a little sister called Amanda. She is a 10-year-old, talkative, sportive, and pretty girl. She always makes the dinner full of laughter. We can still remember how happily we played together every night, how many times she scared us, and how good she was in dancing.

Finally it is our little brother Alex. This 14-year-old boy is a bit shy, but he is definitely a charming boy who is good in giving us fun. The songs he chose for our disco night were amazing.

The hugs and kisses from Mum and Dad, the happiness brought from Amanda, the time with Alex are going to stay in our hearts forever. We love you and miss you all very, very, very much!



SAMMUEL

My two weeks life with the local family is wonderful. The Home Stay is valuable to me because it gives me a chance to live with strangers in an unfamiliar country. I learnt how to adapt to a new environment and communicate with foreigners.

My host parents, Roy and Carol are so nice and kind to me. I learnt a lot about Australia by chatting with them every night. The life style in Brisbane is totally different from that in Hong Kong. They have well planned schedule for everyday. At the beginning, I found this type of life style was so simple and was a little bit boring. Everything was so stable and fixed. However, after 2 weeks, I felt that it might be the real life.

Every night after dinner, we sat at the sofa and watched TV to relax. The relaxation or leisure times are quite important to them because they said if you know how to relax, you must know what the real life is. Also, I had more contact with the natural environment because there is a big garden in the house, which is near to a small forest. Every morning, there are over 50 parrots coming to our balcony to look for food. At night, there are also 2 possums (small kangaroo) coming too. My family will feed all of them with bread and fruits every day and night.

As a whole, I enjoyed the life with them in Brisbane. I love them!



ERIC

I regarded the experience of home stay with marvels. That's the best and the only way for you to explore cultures and life styles of a place where you've never been and that made our trip a definite difference to an ordinary leisure tour.

I lived in the Newcomb family, in Carindale, ten minutes walk from the bus interchange and shopping mall, a very nice location. There are two occupants in the house; Carol, my host mum, and she lives with Nori, a Japanese student who is studying to be a golf coach. Don't forget about Pinnaball, the big dog. It's a British Dublin.

We talked about many things, from Hong Kong food culture to the career prospect in Brisbane. No doubt, I had been benefited a lot from that. Sometimes, we would have curry and Chinese noodles for dinner. I also introduced them how to make traditional Chinese desserts like sweet potato soup.

The weekend was wonderful. Carol and I went picnic at the seaside and her sister's family joined us too. We had barbecued German sausages and steaks for lunch. Nice people, great food and lovely weather, how colourful!

The trip was over but memories remained. I miss you, Carol.



ERICA SANDY

The two weeks that I spent with Sandy in the Adarayan family was far beyond my expectation. First of all, our host mum and dad are from the Philippines, and there were a Thai girl and a Japanese boy!

The warmth and smiles they showed me eased all my nervousness, I just felt like at home and really comfortable because they took good care of us and we talked like family.

They are the couple that have their own business and yet know how to enjoy life. I enjoyed chatting with them during dinner time. They have positive attitudes towards life, and my host mum, Agnes always reminded me the importance of studies, as she was a teacher. And host dad, Jerry, was just so friendly and easygoing.

Thanks a million for all. I love you always.



Eva and Gloria Wong

Although we had only stayed with our host family, Cameron's family, for 12 days, we developed a lifelong friendship. Let us introduce their family members first! Cameron's family includes Michael (host father), Gaye (host mother), Jason and Sean (their sons).

During our stay, they were willing to share their home and accept us as their daughters. Every night, after a long busy day, they must squeeze their time to talk with us. They were not only interested in what we did in our journey, but also our home country. We got involved in their life easily and also we could have a greater understanding of Australia.

Apart from talking, Gaye and Mike brought us to visit the Gold Coast on Saturday. And Jason brought us to watch the rugby match as well as barbecue with his friends on Sunday.

We also tried to cook some Chinese dishes for them, such as the golden rice, sweet and sour pork, tofu (bean curd) with mushroom and rice noodles. They love our cooking!

We did enjoy our stay and treasure our friendship. We would like to thank you for their hospitality and kindness during our stay. Keep in touch!

EVA & GOLRIA



VIVIAN YVONNE

The easiest way to learn a different culture is to step into their household.

During our days in Brisbane, we stayed with the Bittenbinder's family. They include, our host dad Gerhard, our host mom Monica and their lovely daughters, Nicki, Aliese, Lauren and Amamda. They also have a lovely dog, Sally. On the first day of arrival, we could already feel their warm welcome. They were so nice to us that they made us feel like at home.

We could never imagine how lucky we were to stay with the Bittenbinder's family. We always had delicious dinners and snacks because Gerhard is a cook.

We have spent the free weekends in a very Australian way. They took us to the big shopping mall to shop for daily necessities and gardening materials. Most of all, they drove us to the Glass House Mountains Lookout to enjoy an Australian picnic breakfast where they cooked the breakfast outdoors. They also took us to the Sunshine Coast, a place where Australian spent their leisure time and weekends. The scenery there was magnificent.

The Bittenbinder's family had shown us their passion to their family, their friends and their nations during our stay. They had left us with the sweetest memories that we could never forget the days we have spent with them.



IDY FLORENCE

On the first day of arrival, we felt like two little kids waiting for our parents to bring us home. There are three members in our host family. Our parents, Christine and Barry, are very kind to us. They treated us like their own daughters. Our brother, Jay, is a fashionable boy who is now twenty years old.

Anxiety was unavoidable when staying in a strange environment, but the hospitality of our host family swept away all our worries. Host mum, Christine, always respected our opinions.

During our stay, they always watched television and chatted with us. Jay taught us to play snooker, too. My family prepared every best thing we needed. Our living was not simply accommodation but full of love and concern.

Most of the days, they picked us up to and from the excursions. No matter how exhausted they were, they always considered our happiness first! At the weekend, they got up earlier and took us to Gold Coast in the morning. On the following day, they picked us to have our barbecue breakfast on the top of a mountain, drove to Sunshine Coast and Big pineapple wet market later on.

Time was going too fast. A close relationship was gradually developed among the host family and us. Our joyful time was still flowing in our memory from time to time. Thanks for giving us an excellent experience!



JOHNNY

In the two weeks in Brisbane, I lived with the Rocha Family. My host family includes two members, my "Dad", Maurice, and my "Mom", Roxanna. My family is very special because my host dad and mom are Indians instead of Australians. On the first day with my family, I was really nervous and quite unhappy. I was afraid that I may have communication problems with them or I had to use my hands to eat. However, we had a wonderful time together.

Every night, my mom cooked a delicious dinner for us. We talked everything about Australia and Hong Kong such as politics, youth problems, social security, legal system etc. I learnt a lot from my Dad.

On Saturday, We went to the most famous place in Australia, Gold Coast. The beach is the most beautiful beach that I have ever seen. We took a lot of photos on the beach. After that, we went to the market in Gold Coast to enjoy a wonderful lunch and did some shopping.

Host Dad and Mom, I love both of you, and I hope that I can see you again. This is really an honour for me to be your "son".



GLORIA

I stayed with the Layt Family in these two weeks. I was the only girl who lived alone with the host family. My family is quite special. At first, there were three persons staying with me: my host mum, Roselyn; her daughter Miranda; and her grandson Daniel. Then two more people came. They are Roselyn's son Branda and his girlfriend. But on my last few days of the tour, only Roselyn was staying with me.

Every morning, she prepared lunch boxes for me; when I got a flu during the tour, she concerned about me and gave me medicine; one night, she took me to Sunnybank, which is a small China town near my house. We even had dinner in a Vietnamese restaurant there!

During the weekend, I spent my time with Johnny and his host family, Maurice and Roxanna. They were really nice to me. They brought me to the Gold Coast and they also invited me to their house to have a delicious dinner. They are the sweetest couple I have ever met! I did enjoy my time with them and I really want to thank them for their warmest welcome.



MAGGIE MIU

A 12-day home stay experience-one of the core elements of this exchange programme-lends to the creation of a mixed feeling: a bit afraid but also what we are looking forward to. Do you know who our host family are?

They are Rosemary Kelly, the tour consultant of this trip from AIIU and her husband, Roger Kelly.

It is definitely our pleasure to live in there and to be the first guys coming from Hong Kong. Although they did not have much experience in receiving exchange students before, they tried their best to let us feel as if we lived in our home. For example, they respected our choice to go to the Gold Coast when we had a whole Saturday with them; they tried to spare some time to chat with us even though they were busy at their work; they taught us how to pronounce the words accurately; they arranged a day full of surprise: to watch dolphins and whales in an outlying island etc. All these showed they were indeed very nice, concerning our needs and feeling and tried to satisfy our desires.

What we can say at the end is that time runs too fast. The 12 days we spent with them were full of FUN, EXCITEMENT, SURPRISE, MEMORY and LOVE. We never expected the home stay experience was so good. Albeit we have been back to Hong Kong, to our normal and ordinary life, the memory of those 12 days is still very fresh. We promise with confidence that we definitely will not forget this experience even though time flies.