



Christie Chan Sze-kee

When I was notified of taking home stay than staying in hotel, I was a little bit scared. I did not know whom I would stay with and I would have to stay with strangers for 2 weeks. But when I met the host families in the welcoming session, all my worries were gone.

Unlike other fellow delegates, the host mother who I stayed with is a Chinese. So I was very fortunate that I could have Chinese food and rice in my dinner. Nonetheless, as my host father is a British, I had the opportunity to experience a distinct cultural interflow, with Australian, British and Chinese culture mingled together.

Even though my host father and mother were so busy that they sometimes could not accompany me, I still want to say a big thank you to them, as the time of staying with them was really very memorable.

Yuki Chan Ting-li

I and Vincent shared the same host, the Phole's family (oh, we lived in separate rooms, of course!). I can still remember the delicious taste of McDonald's hot chips they greeted us once we've arrived. I can still remember the time we've shared with them in the chapel every Saturday night, chanting and praising our Almighty Lord. I can still remember the hugs, the laughter and their warmest greetings. I dare to say this: they always treated us the best way they could as if we were the children of their own!

Kerry, our host mother, is a very caring lady. She is a nice cook and introduce us to the fascinating world of Australian food. She's so good at knitting and doll-making that the entire house was decorated by her amazing masterpieces. She did our washings, cleaned our rooms, and prepared every delightful meals for us (Thanks a lot, Kerry!). What's more is that, she's a good listener who is always keen to learn more about our stories, our culture and our thoughts.

Chris, our host father, is a great driver. As the house of our host family is situated in the northern part of Brisbane, he had to drive us to the Strathpine station before we could catch a train there to the Roma Street, which is close to the Mercure Hotel where we met everyday. He always arrived on time and brought us to the desired destination safely and punctually. I really have to give a big 'THANK YOU' to him since I and Vincent haven't been late for any meeting even for once!

Nathan is the 18-year-old son of the Phole's family. He's very gifted in playing musical instruments (just like Vincent!). From him, we learnt a lot about the university life in Brisbane. He even discussed some Mathematics problems with Vincent! (which I have no idea on what they're talking about...). Let me disclose a big secret here: Vincent conquered Nathan's bedroom and poor Nathan had to sleep on the chilly floor of the sitting room (don't get mad with me, Vincent)

Living with the Phole's family, I really have no idea about what's meant by 'home-sick'. We were always treated with the warmest welcome. Here, I have to express my deepest thanks from the bottom of my heart to Kerry, Chris and Nathan. They've made the trip memorable and I'll regard the experiences that I've learnt from them as the most precious treasure for my entire life.

Howard Yu Ho

One of the most rewarding experiences of the Australia exchange is the opportunity to live in a local Australian family. Mr. and Mrs. Fiechter are the parents in the host family. With their three children around, you could feel their happiness once you stepped in the house. I was surprised by their hospitality to me. I remembered the first day we met, the three kids treated me as their best friend and talked with me for the whole afternoon!

I was brought to a local chain restaurant - 'Sizzlar' to have a fabulous salad buffet serving with deep fried fish and chips. I was so glad to have homemade dinner with them almost every day. Believe me, Australian food is delicious. Roasted beef, chicken and mashed potato were my favorites. The only thing was that their portion was a bit large for me and I gained five extra pound during the whole trip!

The eldest son, Ben, was a high-school rugby player who determined to be a professional one-day. His deep understanding and skill in this game surprised me. The younger son was a little mathematician who want to become a civil engineer. Mr. and Mrs. Fiechter's youngest daughter was a charming angel who was always willing to listen and talk to you. I was taught a number of Australian slang, such as "A bucket under a bull"- meaning useless.

Before the exchange programme, I thought that Australia was more or less the same as the other western countries. But in fact, Australia has its very own personality and unique culture. I had not only improved my English but I was also able to understand the subtle cultural differences and had a chance to polish up the art of communication. This is essential to those who hope to become a mature, global citizen.



Kelvin Choi Tsz-chun

I stayed with the Zarghami family in that two weeks. They told me that they are not Australians. They are English. They are very nice, and treat me as their son. I felt very warm in that atmosphere and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'THANK YOU' to them.

Hassan and Linda, who were my host father and mother, were very busy. Hassan is the boss of a computer shop and Linda is a nurse. They always have to work until 8pm. Fortunately, they were so kind that they still take me to the Gold Coast on the holiday. Daniel, Davood and Darius were my host brothers. They are very lovely and always very energetic. I loved to play with them when I was in Brisbane.

This homestay programme does give me a chance to understand the Australian culture and I have learnt a lot from it. Thanks for arranging this programme, and also once more thanks Hassan and Linda for taking care about me.

Rebecca Cheung Ying-ying



My two weeks spent with Holly in McLucas family. My Host Parents are Ian and Beverly McLucas.

Anxiety is unavoidable when staying in a strange environment, but the hospitality of my host swept away all my worries. I felt so home-like, and they treat us like their own children: packed us with delicious lunch boxes, picked us up when we were back from excursions. Everyday when we were back home exhausted, we were always welcomed with heart-warming greetings and most important of all: delicious dishes. We could even have a taste of rice there!

There were so many exclamations during the stay. My first 'WAH' was when I stepped into the house: 'WAH! It's so huge!' It came into two storeys with countless rooms. Holly and I could have our own rooms and bathrooms. And then it was the day when we travelled to their grandchildren's home in Sunshine Coast. 'WAH! It's so beautiful!' It is a farm, a green green farm like a framed picture. And we spent a jolly day with the lovely girls, jumping and running in the field. And one night, my host parents showed us the Southern Stars. I whispered, 'WAH! The sky is so big!'

When I look back, two weeks is really so short for us. It's really hard to say goodbye that tears could not help rolling down because we miss you! Ian and Bev!

Holly Chung Ho-ying

I will never forget Ian and Bev.

Ian and Bev McLucas were my host parents who took really good care of Rebecca and me for two whole weeks in Brisbane. They are a couple who is enjoying their life in retirement. They have received many exchange students before and Rebecca and I were so honourable to be their first 'guests' from HK. Because of their previous experience of receiving exchange students, they knew exactly what we needed and our problems were, such as getting on the right bus to go home. Of course, they helped us a great deal in overcoming the difficulties and eased all our worries about the meals and laundry. This is a marvellous family which made me feel no homesick at all and I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them!



Venus Ho Wai-lan

As we had just arrived Australia, we were so excited because we were going to meet our host family. But I felt a little bit nervous because I did not know whether my host family was kind. Luckily they were! Bryon and Suzanne were very nice. They liked sharing jokes with me. They were young couples, just like my elder sister and sister-in-law. Bryon liked fishing. We sometimes had fresh fish for the dinner. Yummy! Suzanne liked shopping. She showed me some places for shopping. They had two lovely daughters, Lauren and Alexandra, aged 2 1/2 years and four months respectively. I liked playing with them although Lauren was naughty sometimes. Pepsi and Mindi, the puppies, piglets, tropical fishes and birds were the pets which lived with us, too. I enjoyed staying with my host family very much!



Ho Yan-fan

I lived throughout with the caring and interesting Buckley family. From them, I learned a lot, including about topics on the Aboriginal Arts, Australian slang and the local vegetation and wildlife. My host parents took me to a lot of places, like the farm of my host mother's father, the Cabarita Coast, the Gold Coast and large shopping malls. They also invited me to the birthday party of my host mother's sister, the concert of an Australian band and a dance party. In addition, we talked about Hong Kong, China and Australia. My stay with them was really an invaluable experience for me and I hope to see them again soon!



Keziah Law Ka-pui

Talking about my host family in Australia, Clerk's, I would like to say 'Grazie Tante!!' to them. They were really friendly. Thank God! It seemed that I lived with my natural parents and sister there. Again, my thanks for their warm hospitality.

It was unforgettable that they drove me to the hilltop to see the wonderful night scenery of Brisbane.

Seeing the light up gradually, I really enjoyed myself. Tasting ice-cream, watching television, having BBQ near the swimming pool and watching Charlotte, my host sister, playing net ball match were the common activities during my stay. My host mother, Lee, was a very nice and kind person, I really enjoyed chatting with her. We had everything to share with each other. My sister, Charlotte, was a lovely and mature girl. The place was full of joy whenever she was. Once I had a chance to climb up the tree with my Japanese roommate and her. We appreciated the starry sky!

I remembered that my host's granny and her friend from the USA, came to visit them and stayed with us for several days. They showed me their family photos and told me their life span. It seemed that I was listening to an old story on the Temple Street in Hong Kong! It was pretty interesting! And the two lovely doggies were energetic too. When I was back home, they would let me have warm and friendly welcome 'kisses'. Then, I would not feel tired anymore.

My host father, Andrew, was a great cook. I could not forget he prepared a Greek dinner for me. Yummy Yummy!

During weekend, we had wonderful dinner. I was surprised to have turkey.

My host mother told me that it was to celebrate our being peace and safe to have dinner again after a busy week. Wow! It was meaningful!

I was glad to have my own bedroom so that I could have my private time, when I need. Time is running very fast. Though I am now in Hong Kong, I still think of the homestay experience .



Ann Cheung

An Old Worseley Car, A farm of mandarin, oranges and poultry; Further inside, there were two doggies happily swaying their tails ; Together with a cup of steaming tea and vegemite on baked bread, An implicit message, 'Welcome to our home'.

A memorable video show of the family, Some nice, warm, cheerful gatherings at the fireplace;
Tracking of possums and frogs in the dark;
The blaze of burning rotten wood;
Sparkling, enjoying and unforgettable;
Lighting up faces and images of Kevin, Heather and Brett,
Shine and never fade...



Tang Wing-see

Father: Vlado, child-like young man, but Sue said she liked his childishness.

Mother: Sue, friendly, extremely good to me, take good care of injured wild animals and send them back to the nature after they have recovered under her attentive care. I would be sorry if she is not my host Mum.

Sister: Helena, 10 years old but mature and know how to take care of others. A promising young lady.

Brother: Tyler, shy, never willing to kiss me, always forgot my name but called me 'Anice'. Told his mother to drive me back to Hong Kong from his home.

Joyce Tse Nga-fong

It is my first time to Australia. As a delegate instead of an ordinary visitor, I decided to learn more about Australia, not only the great scenery, but also the culture in Australia.

Barry and Marlin were helpful in my exploration. Who were they? They were my host parents when I was in Australia. They always chatted with us letting us know more about Australia, such as the social changes, the tax system, politics... all are valuable treasure. Besides, they loved to receive people as their guests. During the two weeks stay, I met two Japanese and a Chinese in 'my' home. It is amazing that there was four different nationalities in a flat.

Also they gave me many new experiences, e.g.: the visit to the Surfers Paradise in Gold Coast, the shopping trip in the Sunday Market and also the chatting under starlit night. They made the two weeks time full of interests. Thanks to Barry and Marlin.



Rosanna Yeung Chi-shan

I think Joyce and I were the luckiest among all.

We were the host students of Barry and Marilyn Winslett. During the two week's stay, I kept putting on weight because I just could not help eating the so many different styles of cuisines that they prepared for us. I just ate and ate all day.

We would never get bored when we were with them. They had planned many activities for us. We have been to the Sunday market for shopping, the casino where Joyce was very lucky to had won a lot, the surfers paradise in the hot-spot Gold Coast and so many more!



Vincent Lung

I stayed with the Pohle's family during my visit to Brisbane. They are so nice and friendly people that I enjoyed so much staying with them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their warm hospitality.

Thank you Chris, Kerry and Nathan, for treating us like your own children and friend.

Thank you for taking Yuki and me here and there every day and night.

Thank you for arranging everything for us. You made everything easy for us.

Thank you Kerry, for preparing such good meals, especially your tea. I shall never forget your lovely dessert.

Last of all, a big THANK YOU again! Hope to see you in Hong Kong soon!

Christopher Tse Tsun-ting



I recall the first day of our trip, when delegates were quite nervous about their first meeting with their host families. I was worrying about my appearance after hours of travelling, the tired face and untidy hair might form a bad impression. That proved to be unnecessary, because when I met the Murrell, Scott, the youngest member of the family bombarded me with questions about life in Hong Kong, and telling me his. He also drowned me with suggested plans for my two-week stay in Australia. Robert and Carolyn (Dad and Mum) sometimes had to stop him in order to let me speak. This scenario was striking to me as I would never have expected them to be so eager in getting to know me. To me, it was already the warmest welcome.

My knowledge to Australian lifestyle largely came from the Murrell. Instead of watching 'Aussie football' on television, we went to see a real game in action (the Marooka Roosters playing in Aspley), where Scott was involved. Our visits to Mt. Tamborine, Toowoomba and Pittsworth were eye-openers, and I even had the chance of touching some wild life animals- Death Adder, Mulga, Blue Tongue, etc. Robert taught me how to treat a cane toad. Scott showed me his secret hide out, his BMX bike ride skills, how to log for fire, and how to play a two man cricket game. And above all, I miss Carol's food.

I cannot but once more express my greatest gratitude to the Murrell for giving me two splendid weeks that I surely will remember.

Sharon Yau Mei-mei

The home stay programme is one of the highlights of this exchange programme. There are eight members in my host family: Mr. and Mrs. Simpson, Kristy, Christopher, Natasha and Nicholas, and two dogs named Molly and Bell. All of them are very nice and friendly.

Actually, I am the third exchange student staying with them. When I arrived, there was a boy from Japan spending his last night with the host. So, we had a wonderful international night with youth from Australia, Japan and Hong Kong talking about different culture and customs. During weekends, my host Mom and Dad took me to see the kids' Nanny and Poppy. I know more about the family.

