

Hi everyone. I only have three months left. I'm excited to go back to Japan but at the same time, I still have many things that I want to do in Australia! So, I will make the most of my time and enjoy the rest of Australian life. I was staying at another host family's house for two weeks this month. So, I felt like I could try more new things this month.

<Japanese festival>

I joined a Japanese festival as a volunteer with my Brazilian friend. We were in the culture section, and we taught guests how to make origami. I have been making origami for a long time, and my Brazilian friend has never tried it before. So, we practiced before the day of the festival. On the day, culture section was really popular with kids, and they enjoyed making origami. I mainly taught "shuriken" and frogs. It was a little bit difficult to teach in English, but I also showed examples to guests at the same time so, they could



understand. I was really happy that all guests enjoyed making origami. At the festival, there were Japanese food shops (*Takoyaki*, *taiyaki*, *matcha* etc.), performances (*bon-odori*, *wadaiko*, *karate* etc.) and a lot of activities that we could do at Japanese summer festivals. I was surprised and happy that there were much more Australian people who love Japanese culture than I expected. Also, since I came here, I'm realizing Japan has a lot of its own attractive culture. Now I love Japanese culture more than before I came here.

<birthday party>

In Australia, people celebrate big when people turn 13, 18, 21, 30, 40, 50 . . .

My host mother turned 50 years old this year, so she threw a big party. She invited around 50 guests to our house. There is a pizza oven at our house. So, she made 70 pizza doughs before the party, and every guest brought ingredients, and we had pizza! We also prepared to clean and decorate the house. The party was fun. I think big birthday parties are not really a common thing in Japan, especially throwing a party with people who are not family members. But I realized I love party culture, and I would like to do this in my future because it's a special and good time to see friends and family all together.

