

Time went really fast; there's just two weeks left and that is totally unbelievable. It seems like I came here just a couple months ago but I've been Australia for ten months. This year has been the most challenging year for me. Though I had lots of fun here, there were lots of tears as well.

I learnt plenty of important things here. One of them is to help each other. When I came Australia, I could not understand what everybody was saying as the pronunciation was completely different from what I used to here, which is Japanese-English. When I said something, they asked me to say it again for every single time. I lost all of my confidence of my English. Then I became to think "every time I say something, I just embarrass myself. Let's not to talk to people and when they say something, just smile." That was huge mistake. I was lonely and had no friends. A girl in my home class, however, kept trying to communicate with me. Her name is Grace and she is amazing. She never gives up on me and always wishes to help. I made lots of friends through her. I cannot say thank you enough to her. In term three, two international students from China and Germany came into my home class. A boy from Germany could speak English really well, but the Chinese girl couldn't. She was just like me, not very good at English and shy. I thought about my first month and decided to talk with and help as much as I can. Now we are the best friends. I knew it is important to help others before I came here, but I just knew by head. Now I learnt from my experience and I will never forget about this.

Secondly, I found out how much I love my city; Tokyo. I am in Toowoomba i.e. often described as rural region. Most of my friends here have never been on train. There is one big shopping centre in town, which is the only place you can go on weekend, therefore, if you go there, you would meet someone you know. Every time you want to go somewhere with your friends or just shopping, you have to ask your host family to take you there because there is no bus on weekend. I am not saying it is bad, but this is just the way it is. To be honest with you, it was so stressful for me. When I was in Japan, I was always busy with school or going somewhere with my friends or anything on every weekend. I had something to do for all the time. In Australia, I have been always bored because if I

ask my host parents to take me anywhere, they would get cranky (they are very nice people by the way). As I spent time here, I realised how much I love my city.

I don't say studying abroad is easy. It is really hard, lots of things challenge you. You have to live with strangers who doesn't understand your mother language. The things I learnt here, however, are really worth all the difficulties I had. I learnt that I had seen just a bit part of world from my international friends. I don't regret at all that I spent one year in foreign country by myself. If you want to go to study abroad but you are not sure whether you should go or not, I would push you. It was great experience. I would like to say thank you to all people that supported me through the program. I'd like to say thank you to my family, my host family, teachers at Koishikawa, staffs from nest generation office, my friends in Japan and Australia and everyone who read this report. Thank you so much, I really appreciate for your help.

Now it's time to go back to my home country. See you soon,

Miyu Nakashima





Aren't we cute??



The beginning of the term three! If you look at the picture carefully, you will notice that the member is different from the first picture.



Tug of war!!!



We went to Gold coast to learn beach safety ☺



Teachers gave us kangaroo stuffed toys. They're sooooo cute



I got gold level award and academic award! I am very honoured to achieve those awards