



Toru Morito
Teacher of Ukiana
Elementary School



Courteous Visit to Mayor of Lismore(center)



The two weeks I spent in the city of Lismore were an incredible time that gave my students and me a lot of learning, experiences, and memories. That is why we were so sad to say goodbye to our host families and city hall staff who welcomed us so kindly. I missed them all very much.

The city of Lismore is very rich in nature, and there are many gum trees(Eucalyptus) which koalas love and macadamia trees. Although the season was winter, I was able to find wild koalas and platypus. Also, a little bit away from the city, there were farms everywhere, where cows and sheep were feeding comfortably on the grass.

On weekdays, we were guided around the botanical gardens and beaches by city hall staff, and had the opportunity to visit local kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, and universities to learn about the differences between Japan and Australia. On weekends, we enjoyed spending time with our host families at the zoo, mountain climbing, and home parties.

I hope that the five students who participated in the program will make the most of their cross-cultural experience in their future lives.

And, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to attend as a teacher and have valuable experiences. Thank you so much.



Having fun in Bamboo English class



Video Conference on 60th Anniversary of sister city Relationship
(At Farewell Party in Lismore)



Maria Kristina Flores Okamoto
Yamatotakada Municipal Commercial High School
Yamatotakada City ALT Teacher

We heard many good things from the exchange students about their experiences in Lismore. They had so much fun and learned wonderful things. Thank you for giving them the warmest welcome. It's becoming an inspiration for the children here in Bamboo English. They are inspired to learn English more, and maybe someday they could also experience visiting Lismore. Here in Bamboo, we try to learn English in a fun way. We look forward to meeting and seeing you here in Japan. We are excited to learn and try different things that you are about to share.



The Bamboo Shoots

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We do hope The Bamboo Shoots born out of the soil of Yamato-Takada will grow up and act as a go-between for the citizens in Lismore and in Yamato-Takada

Exchange Student Program with Sister City Lismore resumed!!

The exchange student program, which was suspended for four years to prevent the wide spread of Covid-19, has been finally resumed this year (2023).

The five students visited the city of Lismore together with Mr. Morito at Ukiana Elementary School through July 26th till August 8th.

The Students' aspirations beforehand:



Yuna Fukunishi

I'm really excited about staying with my host family for 2 weeks. I would like to proactively communicate in English with many people in Lismore. Also, I would like to share the local appeals of Yamatotakada on behalf of its citizen and learn about Lismore. I expect to learn something new and get a lot of experiences through this overseas study. I'm going to act on my own initiative with no hesitation.



Kaho Munakata

The reason why I applied to this student exchange program is because I would like to learn the real lifestyle and culture in Lismore, and also let the people there know about the charms of Yamatotakada and Japanese culture. As one of the exchange students who are visiting Lismore, I'll work towards to discover a lot of differences in culture and lifestyles between Japan and Australia.



Mirei Ishii

Since I was an elementary school student, I've had many opportunities to talk with people from Lismore. So, I've been wishing for visiting their home town as an exchange student for a long time. At first, I was hesitating to apply to this program because of taking university entrance examinations, however, I chose to apply to the program, which is marking 60th sister-city anniversary this year. Now, this is a great honor to be a member of the program. I am going to learn the history of both cities deeper and pass it down correctly. Also, I will do my best as a member of the Bamboo English's first class to be a good role model for younger students.



Yui Marugami

I applied to this student exchange program because I would like to put myself in an unfamiliar place with different language to improve myself. When I visit Lismore, I will tell the Yamatotakada's local appeals and would like to share each culture to take advantage of this opportunity. After I come back, I will show the charms of Lismore to the people as many as I can.



Hiroharu Higashi

I am so grateful to be chosen as a member of this student exchange program. I'm so excited because I've been always wishing for going overseas since I was little. I will learn lots of culture, communicate with many people and have a valuable experience while having fun in Lismore.



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When I was preparing for the social studies class, I found that Yamatotakada and Lismore have been in a sister-city relation for many years. As a chaperone, I decided to learn a lot of new things with the exchange students to deepen the friendship between both cities when I heard the student exchange program would be resumed for the first time in four years. Lastly, I will do everything I can to support the students to make their overseas study enjoyable and valuable.

Our experiences

Episodes & Impressions we never forget

What impressed us most about Australia was how Australian people made the most of nature without using natural resources meaninglessly and that they were very much compassionate toward nature. For example, suppose we walked on the beach and got sand around our feet. Then we might try to remove the sand by using 'tissues'. But children of Lismore were robbing their feet against the grass to remove the sand. I was also surprised to learn that they had much knowledge about plants and flowers and that they used them for cooking and for medicinal herbs.

In this way, we really realized that people in Lismore led a wonderful life taking advantage of nature.



Borage



By the way,

I often saw local people in Lismore go out here and there around their houses in bare feet. It seemed that they didn't like to bother to wear shoes. Also when we went to the beach with our host family, they walked barefooted on the concrete path leading to the beach, but we couldn't walk barefooted on it because it hurt us very much.



Japanese cuisine we served:



A kind of Japanese cake 'warabimochi' got a favorable response among our host families.



Five ate up the curried rice for eight persons completely.



We also baked 'okonomiyaki' and made other Japanese typical sweets, which we left to them hoping that they liked them as thank-you-presents of souvenirs.

Differences in road signs:



There were few traffic lights in Lismore, so everyone was driving carefully following the unique signs.



We found some interesting signs of animals that are not seen in Japan, such as pictures of wombats and koalas.



These signs tell us "Go ahead, pedestrians!"

Daily life in Lismore



In Australia, they usually have five meals a day, with morning tea around 10 a.m. and afternoon tea before dinner. Dinner is mostly one plate format.

In Lismore various kinds of meals were well prepared by city council staff and our families as well. They made us feel so happy and welcome that we didn't even get hungry during our stay there.

<<What we realized through the project this year:>>

Life in Australia was very different from that in Japan, so life was very refreshing for us.

We were very much impressed to see that the days we spent there were filled literally with new experiences, which inspired us to learn seriously about various ways of thinking and lifestyles in Lismore.

We received a lot of kind helps in everyday life there from our host families, city staff and other people, so each day went by before we could blink.

