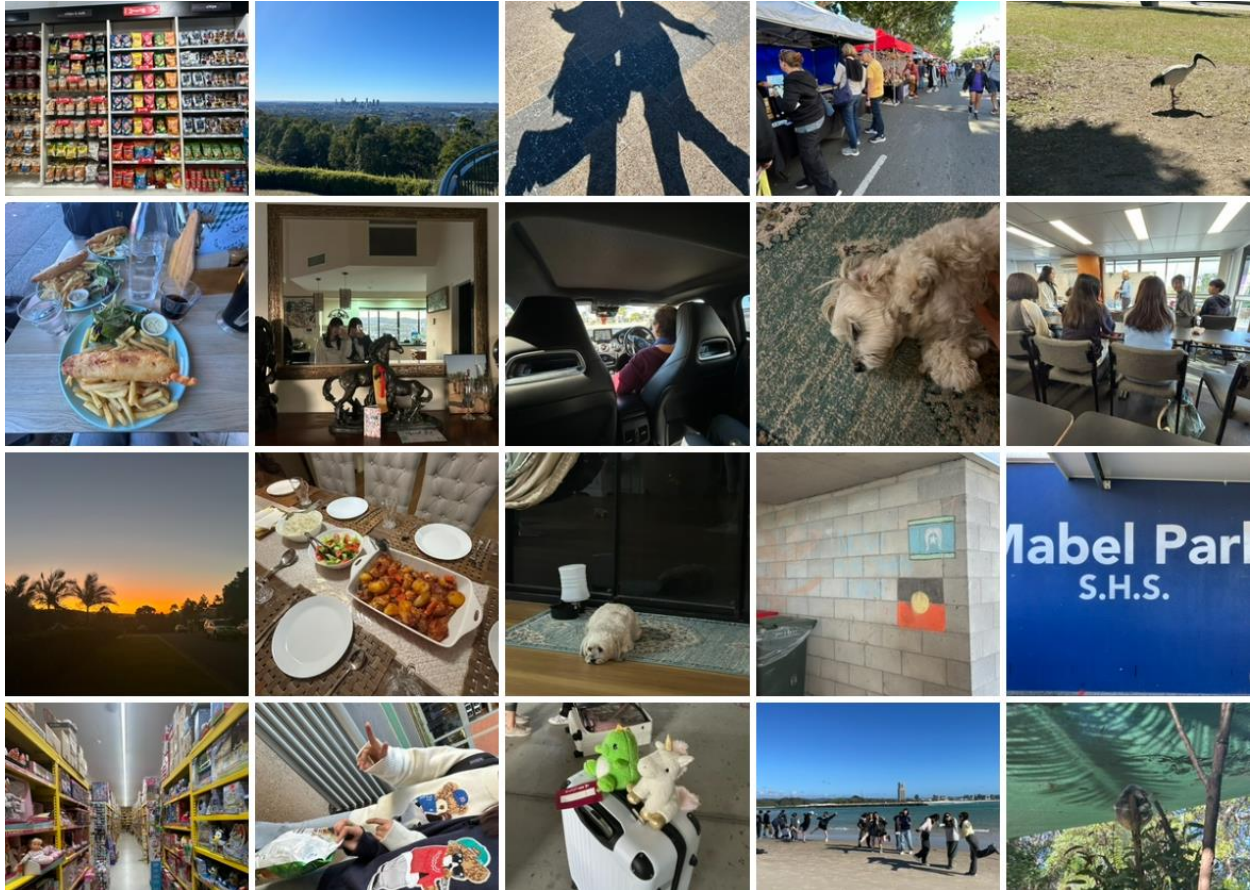


# My study abroad in Australia

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## Mabel Park State High School

This high school had a large population of 1,800 students and a variety of students, including those with indigenous roots, migrant families and international students. There were many unusual rooms here that are not found in Japan. For example, there is a hair salon where students study and work, a room specializing in medicine, and a laboratory where students learn about technology and try to put it into practice. There are many subjects, including drama studies and remote-controlled aeronautics. I thought I

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could learn deeply about each of the fields I wanted to study. I had many experiences that I would not have had without studying abroad. For example, talking and eating with my buddy.

## Language School

At the language school, I played English games with my friends from Hong Kong, my friends from Japan who studied alone and my friends from Shichirigahama High School. In the brain games, we communicated in English with friends in the same group and competed with each other. At lunchtime, we ate sandwiches made by our host mothers and talked with our new friends. There were locks on the toilets and you had to enter a password to get in, and in the shopping area students were managing the money and selling things. I was surprised by this scene, which is not seen in Japan.

## Homestay

We went to the home of Lindsay and Sorayya, an elderly couple and their two dogs. I loved the house because it was close to the mountains and the view in the evening was beautiful!!!!!! My host family was very kind and warm towards the end of my stay as my English was not very good. I also had a lot of fun every day with the relatives who stayed with us and the students from Hong Kong who stayed with us. We played games together, went shopping and talked about dating talk with the international students. Through the homestay, I was able to learn about Australian life and culture, and I had such a happy time that I have never spent so much time in Australia every day.

## What I learned through this program

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I thought the world was bigger than I thought. I had a prejudice that I was afraid to go abroad, but when I was in trouble, the staff and my host family were kind enough to help me, and when I said Japanese, they said "hello" in Japanese, and there were a lot of warm people. Also, although our mother tongues are different, we could talk about each other's countries and make friends with many people by using English. I was worried about studying abroad if I couldn't speak English well, so I couldn't talk to many people at first. However, I thought it would be pointless to come to Japan to study, so even if I couldn't get what I wanted to say across, I tried using gestures and just words, and surprisingly I was able to get my message across. I think I improved my English listening and speaking skills thanks to my active speaking. I think these are things I could because I studied abroad. So I am glad I studied abroad.