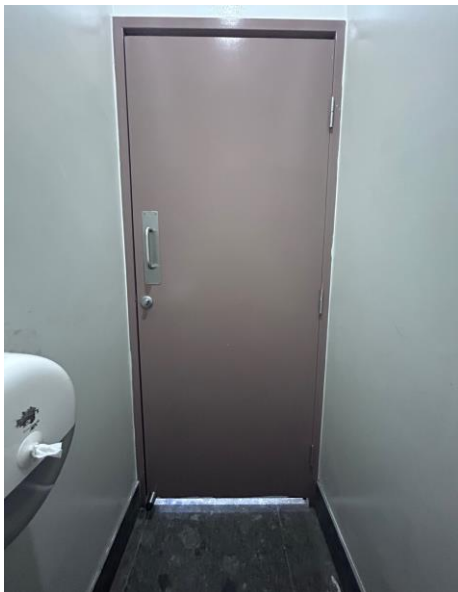


# I bought a lot of Oreos

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## Mabel Park State High School



Many of the students were so large that it was hard to believe they were the same high school students. It was interesting that many of the students had beards. Some of the students were very friendly to us, and some of them looked at us with a very unpleasant look in their eyes, which made me sad. The school was very spacious and clean, and there were trash cans everywhere. Drama class was almost like a playtime, just like in Japan.

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## Language School



The class content was all in English, so it was more difficult than classes in Japan. Also, the class content was more difficult than usual. In Japan, the teacher talks all the time, but at the language school, there were many group discussions. It was a student-centered class. Also, the way of asking questions was completely different from Japan, and there were some questions I did not know how to answer. There were many Taiwanese and Hong Kong people.

## Homestay



It was a wonderful house with large rooms, a spacious living room, and a swimming pool. Since the homestay period was short, I tried to talk to my host mother about as many things as possible, so I asked her many questions about Australia. Whenever I didn't understand something, my host mother would rephrase it in a way that was easy to understand, so the conversation went smoother than I had imagined. But at first I could only say yes and no! Gradually I became more relaxed and could talk a lot, and after school I was taken to many places. It was a very valuable and enjoyable experience!

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## What I learned through this program

During this visit to Australia, I learned the importance of speaking up for myself rather than waiting for others to ask me questions. At the language school and at the local high school, the foreign students around me were not shy to express their opinions clearly. I don't think many kids in Japan can do that, and I am not good at expressing my opinions either. But in other countries, if you don't speak up, you will be ignored. So from now on, I would like to be conscious of communicating more and more from myself, which is what I learned this time.