

2019

Summer



# Support Our Kids Homestay Program Report ~Australia~



November 2019

Support Our Kids Committee

## O V E R V I E W

## Orientations &amp; Reunion

May 5, 2019	1st orientation (Tohoku Fukushi university)
June 23, 2019	2nd orientation (Tohoku Fukushi university)
September 8, 2019	Reunion meeting (Tohoku Fukushi university)
November 16, 2019	Final reunion meeting
November 17, 2019	Main reunion



## Homestay Program

August 13, 2019 ~ August 25, 2019

<b>Place</b>	Knoxfield, Victoria, Australia
<b>Host school</b>	Fairhills High School
<b>Participants</b>	6 students from Tohoku (13~17 years old)
<b>Team "Brave"</b>	During the homestay, we challenge everything with courage. The logo consists of a plane encompassing the globe, meaning conveying thoughts and experiences.
<b>Team Goals</b>	① Speaking by myself ② STEP (Smile, Thank, Eye Contact, Please) ③ Conveying thoughts and experiences
<b>Programs</b>	Homestay, Attending host school, 3.11 presentation, Japanese tea presentation, English lesson, Visiting MAZDA, Leadership program, Visiting aquarium, Watching Australian football game (Porth Melbourne vs Port Adelaide) Fieldtrip (Melbourne Park, Queen Victoria Market etc.)
<b>Support Partners</b>	Australian Embassy, Australia Japan Foundation, Invest Victoria, Minamisanriku Town, Mitsubishi Shokuhin Co., Ltd., MARUTO CO.,LTD, UJIE SUPER, Mazda Motor Corporation, ITO EN, LTD., ANZCCJ, Fairhills High School



## Host school

## Fairhills High School



## A school known for performing arts and rich in nature


Public Coeducational School, 870 students (year 7~12), established in 1973

Fairhills High School is a public school in Knox, Victoria. Located in the multicultural city of Knox, about 5km east of the center of Melbourne.

In addition to major subjects such as geography, history, science, accounting, business, law, and IoT, there are also a variety of elective subjects such as physical education, music, drama, dance, visual communication, and studio art. The VICE (Victorian Certificate of Education) program is implemented, providing high quality education. Foreign languages are also offered, a selection of either German or Japanese.

Fairhills has been designated as a special art enhancement school of Knox, and it is well known for the quality of its performing arts, with good results in dance and performance competitions like the Rock Eisteddfod.



	AM			Lunch	PM	Venue
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3		Period 4	
Day 1 13 Aug.	Tohoku → Tokyo			13:30 -16:30 Orientation @Support Our Kids office		National Olympics Memorial Youth Center (Yoyogi)
Day 2 14 Aug.	Groupworks			13:30-15:00 Departing ceremony @Australian Embassy		Hyatt Place Tokyo Bay
Day 3 15 Aug.	10:00 Departure	Flight (QF080) ※14 hours late			Meeting host families	Homestay
Day 4 16 Aug.	School tour	Normal class	Mazda Australia			Homestay
Day 5 17 Aug.	Time with host families		Melbourne tour ① presented by Mazda Aquarium Visit & Australian football game Porth Melbourne vs Port Adelaide			 Homestay
Day 6 18 Aug.	Time with host families					Homestay
Day 7 19 Aug.	English	English	Normal class	Leadership program	Japanese tea presentation	Homestay
Day 8 20 Aug	Normal class	Normal class	English	Lunch	English	Homestay
Day 9 21 Aug.	3.11 presentation	English	English	Lunch	Normal class	Homestay
Day 10 22 Aug.	English	English	Normal class	Farewell party	Normal class	Homestay
Day 11 23 Aug.	Melbourne tour ② Melbourne Park & Queen Victoria Market					Homestay
Day 12 24 Aug.	5:00 Leaving host school 9:10 Departure (QF 079, Melbourne airport)				18:35 Arriving (Narita airport)	Hotel Le Port Kojimachi
Day 13 25 Aug	10:30 Closing ceremony @Support Our Kids office					

Homestay



Host school



3.11 presentation



Mazda Australia





# Departure Ceremony



## Orientation

The departure ceremony was held at the Support Our Kids office on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Mr. Uemura (Mazda Motor Corporation) and Mr. Torimura (2012 US Homestay cheparon) came as representatives to talk about the thoughts and experiences of the supporters during the homestay.

[Contents]  
About 3.11 presentations, lectures about homestay experiences, About Australia (Student Presentation)  
Guest presentation (Mazda Motor Corporation),



## Sending off ceremony

The sending off ceremony was held at the Australian Embassy in Japan. Australian Ambassador H.E Richard Court, Counselor Michael Hoy, and embassy staff Mr. Shiraishi and Mr. Takeda from ITO-EN attended the event.

[Contents]  
3.11 presentation, Japanese tea serving demonstration, Testimonials,  
About Australia (Australian Embassy)



## Heart-felt Testimonials

I thought that I was well prepared for the presentation, but there were minor flaws when I did it for the first time. I would like to consider once again whom I will give my presentation to and what I want to convey. I also learned about Mazda's history during the time when the atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima. They overcame adversities just like what we did during the time of the earthquake. I felt the passion of those who supported us again. That's why I had to make this homestay fulfilling.



## Team Goal "STEP"

At the Embassy, I was comforted by the smile of Mr. Hoy. We gave the presentation with a conscious effort of making eye contacts better than the last time. It seemed that we are getting a step closer in achieving our team goal, "STEP".





# Host families & Buddies

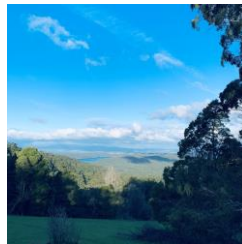


The host families kindly took care of the guests, and each one was assigned a host sister/brother as their buddy. They were warmly welcomed as a true member of the family. The stay was only for about 10 days, but they had a wonderful time that made them consider Australia as their second home country.



## Homestay supported by many people

My host family greeted me "Good morning!" with a smile. They are always kind and warm. When I was sent off by many people, I was happy and at the same time also lonely. I felt that the homestay was supported by many people.



## With Gratitude

When I got home, my host told me, "Let's go to the mountain!" When we arrived at the top, she said, "I wanted to show you this scenery." It was very beautiful and I felt a sense of gratitude. I'm really glad and grateful that she spent so much time for me. I was able to spend time with gratitude and achieved my own goal.





## English Class

For those whose native language is not English, an English class is organized apart from the regular class. In addition to some simple greetings, we learned the history of Australia, the meaning of the national flag and its symbols in English. We also deepened our understanding about Australia, at the same time improving our English skills.

**Australian  
Coat of Arms**  
→



## Life with Nature

The aboriginal art that I learned during the English class was interesting because it had a lot of natural objects, and I think that the aboriginal people are living more closely with nature.



## Fun & Interesting Class

The teacher taught me a lot about Australia in English. Her class was so clear, making it more fun and interesting while learning. The lessons really remained in my mind, especially the difference between "meet" and "meat". She told me that "meat" is associated with eating, because it has the letters "eat" in it. I wanted to maximize everything.





3.11 Presentation

@ Year 9 class

**3.11 Presentation**

We gave the 3.11 presentation during the geology class of YEAR 9 (third grade in junior high). Every student listened to us seriously.

**Leadership Program**

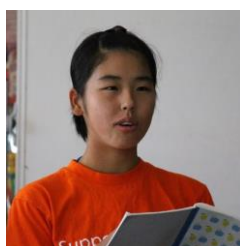
We had activities with students from the leadership program at the host school. We got along very well, made new friends, and at the same time getting familiar with English.

**Introducing Japanese Tea**

The event was held during the Japanese class. The students were very interested in Japanese culture and enjoyed a lot.

**Tea & Talk**

I was able to serve Japanese tea after learning the proper method that ITO-EN taught me. I was very happy to hear the students saying it was delicious! I think that this is one of the wonderful aspects of Japanese culture, having conversations over a cup of tea..

**What is our Real Purpose?**

I was really glad that we were able to give our best during our 3.11 presentation to Australian students of the same age. At first, there were many things we reflected on. We considered once again what is our real purpose, discussed about it until late at night, and we practiced a lot. Yesterday we practiced for hours on the phone. With such effort, we were able to do a successful presentation.





### *Mazda Australia*

We visited various offices, conference rooms, departments, photo studios and showrooms named after Japanese places before giving the 3.11 presentation.

Successive models  
at showroom



### *Melbourne Tour*

Rebecca and Ray from Mazda Australia guided us to the aquarium and to an Australian football game. We experienced an Aussie-style holiday.

### *Importance of Communication*

I visited Mazda Australia today. All of them talked to me kindly, so it was very easy for me to talk back to them. I was able to greet and talk by myself. It was a very fulfilling day. I felt that it was also important to communicate with local people and get immersed with them



### *Exciting!*

Australian football is a very interesting sport. I read the rules from a book in advance, but I couldn't understand the game in the first half. But after I understood what a "Mark" is (catching a kicked ball), I was able to relate and get excited together with the audience.





### *Melbourne Park Tour*

We visited Melbourne Park, the host of the Australian Open. We looked around the backstage, cafeterias, and locker rooms used by world-class players like Naomi Osaka. We experienced tennis on the blue court in front of the Margaret Court Arena!



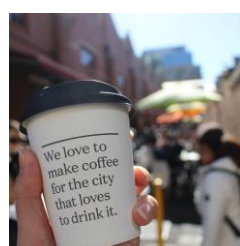
### *Queen Victoria Market*

Queen Victoria Market is known as the largest outdoor market in the Southern Hemisphere. In Melbourne, we tasted "flat white" coffee, which is originally from Australia.



### *Everyday new Challenging*

We joined the Melbourne Arena Tour. It was nice to see a lot of places where we can't usually enter. I did not expect that I could play tennis there. It was an amazing experience playing tennis for the first time in such a great court. The program was filled with fun, it was amazing and challenging from start to end! I had wonderful experiences.



### *Coffee Culture*

First, we visit the famous place where the Australian Open was taking place. The atmosphere was amazing and I was overwhelmed. Then we went to Queen Victoria Market. After lunch, we drank flat white, a coffee originally from Australia, even though it is said that the culture of coffee was spread by the Italians.

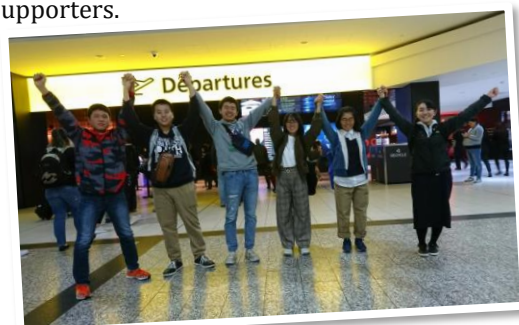


# Closing Ceremony



## Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was held at the Support Our Kids office with Mr. Ishiyama (Maruto Group), Mr. Torimura and Mr. Hirano (SOK Planning). Along with the retrospective video, we spoke in our own words about what we had experienced and our gratitude to the supporters.



## Wings of Reconstruction Ambassador

We supported each other throughout the program just like the SOK theme: "You're not alone." I have set my own goals to develop myself up and worked on it to achieve it. I think I will be able to realize my growth by what I will do from now on. I think that my growth is how to take a new step in Japan and to act differently, and I would like to fly high as a reconstruction ambassador so that I can fully make good use of what I have learned in Australia.

## A Sense of Gratitude

While watching the video of our homestay in Australia, and the days and time spent there, my tears came out because I felt a surge of gratitude toward many people who have been supporting us, and it's so sad to say goodbye to my teammates. From now on, I will do my best to return the favor.



## Special Support Partners

Australian Embassy, Australia Japan Foundation, Victorian Government Trade and Investment, Tokyo Office State Government of Victoria, Minamisanriku Town, Mitsubishi Shokuhin Co., Ltd., MARUTO CO.,LTD, UJIE SUPER, Mazda Motor Corporation, ITO EN, LTD. And others.



### Changing Myself, Finding New Goals

I became interested in this program because I thought it would be a chance to change myself. Through this project, I realized the importance of challenging everything, receiving the warm kindness of people, and experiencing the vastness of the world.

I thought English conversation was absolutely impossible without a translation app because I couldn't understand English at first. However, I came to understand it somehow eventually. I was happy to realize that as long as I try, I could do the things that I had previously thought impossible. Unlike in Japan, I was often surprised that people talked and helped me when I was experiencing trouble in life. I realized that I had lived in my own little world as I spent those days.

When we did the 3.11 presentation, many people listened to us and asked questions. I was so glad to know that there were many people overseas expressing their interest in the earthquake.

In the future, I want to be a nurse who can speak English. I would like to comfort foreign people in hospitals by using their own language.

By participating in this project, I experienced many things that I could not do alone. I met good friends, created opportunities to change myself, and found new goals. Thank you very much for your support.



### Importance of Conveying My Thoughts

I have seen many people working for the local communities to help the rehabilitation of the devastated areas on TV and news since 3.11. As a result, I wanted to become a nurse who can contribute not only to my hometown, but also to travel around the world to heal the "wounds of the hearts".

There are two things that impressed me most during this homestay program. The first is the warmth of the local people. The second is the importance of *clear communication*. In Japan, there are many tacit understandings, so I don't think Japanese people often express their opinions clearly. However, I felt it was important to speak clearly in Australia, even though I could not speak English perfectly. It was sometimes difficult to understand the conversation, but my host family seemed to be happy when I somehow expressed my opinion.

Throughout the homestay, I wanted to become a person who can do something for others, like the people I met in Australia. From now on, I want to do my best to contribute to my home area, like the Maruto Group, which is a local supermarket and cares much for children who participated in the homestay. Then I would like to travel around the world as a nurse and go back to Australia in the future.



### It's My Turn Now After Being Supported For 8 Years

8 years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. I feel that the memory of the disaster has been weathered, that's why I have participated in many projects initiated by the town office, in order to remind people of what happened at that time and to raise their awareness of disaster prevention. My sister participated in Support Our Kids project, so I wanted to do it too.

In Australia, I met a lot of truly caring people. The host family welcomed me with a smile and I talked a lot. They listened carefully about the damage caused by the earthquake and sympathized and cared for us. At that time, I found out that I can feel at ease talking about the hardship and struggles. I think it eases people's mind by listening to their stories rather than by leaving them alone.

I became more active through the homestay. As a reconstruction ambassador, I would like to contribute to my home area by participating in local events as well as during the reunion. I have been supported for the last 8 years, and from now on, I will support the reconstruction and make many people smile.



