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Choi Hung Estate Catholic Secondary School

Australia
New Zealand

SUMMER Study Tour 2014





Australia/ New Zealand Summer Study Tour 2014

Miss Lau Pik Wa, Josephine

This summer, 11 students of our school took part in the Australia/ New Zealand study tour organised by the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan (Secondary Schools). 8 students went to Gold Coast in Australia, while the other 3 chose Wellington of New Zealand as their study destination. The boys were exposed to the learning environment extended from Hong Kong to Oceania. There were over 100 students from a number of Hong Kong Catholic Schools in the programme.

Learning at School and through Excursions

The overseas experience opened new perspectives for our boys. On normal school days, the boys attended the English classes. They learnt about the "Aussie and Kiwi" history and culture. They also had the opportunity to have classes with local students.

In addition, the excursions were enjoyable and educational. The Gold Coast group visited the Australian farm and Wildlife Currumbin Sanctuary, where they were able to see the native animals and experience the natural environment. There were lots of exciting rides and rare sea animals in the theme parks like Movie World and Sea World. In Surfer's Paradise, the students rode the 'Aquaduck' – a special vehicle that travelled on land and in sea.

As for the Wellington group, our students participated in a variety of learning events too. They visited the Te Papa Museum, where they learnt about the history of New Zealand. The group encountered the flora and fauna in New Zealand. They visited the Lindale Farm, South Coast Safari and the Movie Valley where the Lord of the Rings was filmed.

With the Homestay Families and Local Students

The boys of the study tour had to stay with local families and live in the Aussie or Kiwi way. Every homestay family experience is unique, and the most important thing is our boys have become confident in speaking English. They learnt how to understand different cultures and co-exist with other people. On the other hand, some boys have established a long-lasting friendship with their host families and local peers.

The study tour was an extraordinary learning experience and a wonderful lifetime memory for all our boys. We are delighted to present you this booklet so as to share with you our fruitful learning and lovely moments in the summer.





Study Tour Itinerary in Gold Coast, Australia (16th July -5th August)

* Our boys were visiting St. Stephen's College and Hillcrest Christian College

Day	Date	Activity
1	16 th July	Hong Kong International Airport → Brisbane
2	17 th July	Bestbrook Farm Day 1
3	18 th July	Bestbrook Farm Day 2 → Meeting the Host Family at School
4	19 th July	Host Family Weekend
5	20 th July	Host Family Weekend
6	21 st July	Orientation at the hosting school and English class
7	22 nd July	English class
8	23 rd July	Sea World
9	24 th July	English class
10	25 th July	Movie World
11	26 th July	Host Family Weekend
12	27 th July	Host Family Weekend
13	28 th July	English class
14	29 th July	English class
15	30 th July	Currumbin Sanctuary
16	31 st July	Regular class with local students
17	1 st August	Gold Coast city tour
18	2 nd August	Host Family Weekend
19	3 rd August	Host Family Weekend
20	4 th August	Regular class with local students and farewell party
21	5 th August	Brisbane → Hong Kong International Airport



Study Tour Itinerary in Wellington, New Zealand (24th July - 9th August)

* Our boys were visiting St. Patrick's College

Day	Date	Activity
1	24 th July	Hong Kong International Airport → Wellington
2	25 th July	Meeting the host family
3	26 th July	Host Family Weekend
4	27 th July	Host Family Weekend
5	28 th July	Orientation at St. Patrick and Lesson in New Zealand Culture
6	29 th July	College experience with buddies
7	30 th July	Tour of the City, TePapa Museum and Cable Car ride
8	31 st July	Lindale farm and Chocolate factory visit
9	1 st August	College experience with buddies
10	2 nd August	Host Family Weekend
11	3 rd August	Host Family Weekend
12	4 th August	Movie and Valley Tour
13	5 th August	College experience with buddies
14	6 th August	South Coast Safari
15	7 th August	Zoo
16	8 th August	College experience with buddies
17	9 th August	Wellington → Hong Kong International Airport

Table of Contents

Australia (Gold Coast) Tour

School Life at Hillcrest Christian College – pg. 7-8



Sea World – pg. 14



Movie World, Currumbin Sanctuary, Surfers' Paradise – pg. 15-16

School Life at St. Stephen's College – pg. 9-10



Bestbrook Mountain Resort – pg. 11-12



My Host Family – pg. 13



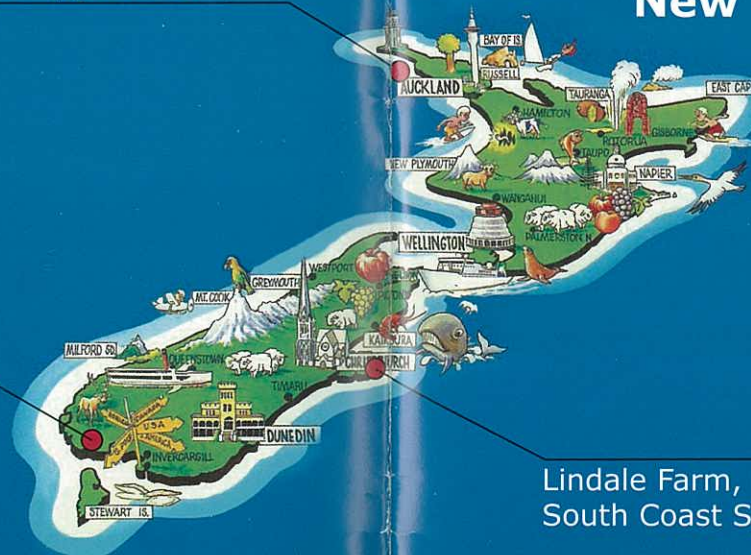
School Life at St. Patrick's College – pg. 17-18



Wellington City – pg. 19



New Zealand (Wellington) Tour



Lindale Farm, Chocolate Factory, Movie and Valley Tour, South Coast Safari, Wellington Zoo– pg. 20-22

My Learning Experience in Australia

Tsoi Yiu Chi (F.2D)

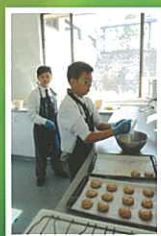
This year, I went to Australia during the summer holiday. On the first day, we went to a farm. I saw a lot of animals. Also, I painted boomerangs, milked cows and rode horses. I think the farm was very interesting.

Two days later, I met my host family and we had dinner together. The Australian meal is very different from the Hong Kong's. I had bread which was cut by a knife and pasta every day. I felt "scared" of eating bread when I got back Hong Kong from the study tour.

I went to Hillcrest Christian College. I met my new Australian friend, Mathew. He was very nice. He taught me Australian English in patience and introduced me some hobbies Australians like.

Visiting to Sea World was unforgettable. There were many exciting rides and animals which I could not find in Hong Kong. I went on rides and bought a lot of souvenirs there.

For this trip, I would like to thank my host family. They were very nice to me and did not blame me for breaking their bed.



Learning and Travelling in Australia

Li Yuk Leung (F.2A)

I really enjoyed this trip to Australia because I learnt a lot about English and different things during this study tour. I would love to go there again.

On the first day, we stayed overnight on the farm and learnt things about the farm like how to milk cows, shear sheep and ride a horse. I haven't had any of these experiences before. The people on the farm took good care of us, and I liked them very much.

The next wonderful thing was meeting with my home-stay family. It was the first time I met them. They were very nice and they were helpful, because they help me know about their family and country as well as introducing me their family rules. My favourite part was having dinner with my host family and chatting with them after meals. I was so lucky to have this home stay.

There were many activities in the school, such as Sports Day. Everyone took part in their favourite sports and I joined 100-metre dash. I am not good at sports, so I could not finish in the runner-ups spot. I watched other competitions too. There were many sports events in Australia.

We learnt a lot of new things in our English classes. It was very special for me to learn chicken dance and other Australian dances. We learnt about the history and culture of Australia. During my English classes, I shared the funny parts about my classmates and other teachers.

My Australian buddy was called Link. He was nice. The first time we met was in the a Maths lesson. The Maths class was easier than that of Hong Kong, so I could teach Link Maths. Link also introduced me to his friends on the campus.

My favourite theme park was Movie World. I met my favourite character – Green Lantern in the park! I also saw Superman and Batman. It was cool! We didn't have a similar one in Hong Kong. I bought a lot of souvenirs and took many pictures with the superheroes.

I am very thankful to my parents for spending money on me for the trip. I really cherish the memories of this trip which enable me to improve my English and learn about Australian culture. When I grow up, I will earn more money for you, Mum and Dad!



Australians and Me

Ng Chun Ho, Tommy (F.5B)

With fresh air and stunning natural scenery, I stayed in one of the most beautiful countries -- Australia for 20 days in summer. I felt nervous when I arrived in Australia, because I had to go to some new places I had never been before and I had to speak English with Australians. It was a big challenge for me.

We visited a farm on the first day. I felt something special on the farm. Even the words could not describe my feelings. The farm was gorgeous and it was filled with fresh air. It made me feel relaxed especially when I strolled around the farm. We were also involved in many activities on the farm such as riding a horse, gathering around the campfire and counting stars at night. The sky in Australia, which I cannot find in Hong Kong, was very cloudless because Australia is a country which focuses a lot on environmental protection. It is hard to witness any pollution in Australia.

After we had stayed on the farm for two days, we went to the city and met our host families. I felt anxious again because my English was not good enough. I was afraid that I was unable to communicate with them. Fortunately, I found them very nice and patient to listen and teach me English.

After I met the host family with my roommate, we had dinner with them. There are two family members in our host family, and they are Tracey and Matthew. Tracey is my host mother. She is a good cook and she always made a lot of delicious food for me. Matthew is my host



father. He is a nice person and he helped me with the things I didn't understand.

In addition, we had to go to school in Australia. We went to Saint Stephen's College, which is a big school I have never visited before. There are three football pitches and many facilities for students to play and use. Their study culture is very different from ours. The school campus is huge enough for all teachers to have their own rooms. I am sure my school teachers will envy them. Another interesting thing was "Australians use many easy English words in their daily life". They use simple English words to speak to people. They just want people to understand the meaning of words easily.

After the summer study tour in Australia, I became more familiar with the Australian culture in terms of food, languages and customs. The trip has also aroused my interest in learning more about Australian history. Besides, I met many friends in Australia and got a chance to learn from each other on the trip.



"Other Learning Experience" in Australia

Lau Fung Shing, Harris (F.5C)

This is the first time I have ever taken part in a study tour and I am very pleased to study in Australia. I find it is a truly valuable experience and I have learnt a lot of things from this tour.

During the study tour, we visited three theme parks at Gold Coast -- Movie World, SeaWorld and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. However, I think the farm was the most impressive part of the study tour. On the farm, we painted some boomerangs and attended a horse riding lesson. It was really interesting, because I have never visited such a big farm in Hong Kong.

Throughout our study tour, we lived with a local family at Gold Coast. My host mother is called Wendy. She has three children called Thomas, Bailey and Jacob. An international student also stayed in the family. Her name is Ruby and she is from Hong Kong too.

During the weekends, I usually played soccer with the boys. The weekend before returning to Hong Kong, my host family brought me to Brisbane. It is a huge beautiful city. We visited the museum which demonstrated the history of Australia. It was amazing.

At Gold Coast, we studied at St. Stephen's College which is a great school in Australia. In the lessons, we learnt much about the local culture and the native animals, such as emus and kangaroos. The teachers were very nice, and they taught us a lot of things like Australian English. I am very grateful to them.

Besides, I have made a lot of friends from our college in this study tour. Most of them are local students. We had the opportunity to communicate with one another during the tour. This helped deepen our friendship.

Throughout these twenty days, I really enjoyed the time spending with my home stay family and my friends. The experience was unforgettable and meaningful. I hope there will be more study tours in the future. I will definitely join once again if I am given a chance!



The Life on the Farm in Australia Tong Yat Wa, Frank (R5D)

I participated in Australian study tour organised by my school this summer. I am extremely pleased to have taken part in this study tour. And even endless thanks cannot express my gratitude.

My favourite part of the trip was the first two days on the farm! On the first day, we arrived at this beautiful farm. We painted and played boomerangs. The next day, we had lessons on the farm. We learned how to milk cows, make marks on the farm animals. However, the temperature dropped fast at night. My three roommates and I were freezing in the room. At midnight, I was woken up by the low temperature. I guessed it was only 1°C or 2°C. In the evening, I tried to make a fire so as to make ourselves warm and sleep well. However, the fire ran out of fuel!!! In order to make a fire, I had to go out and collect logs. This was my first time to make a fire using logs.

That was the moment when an amazing thing happened. When I looked up into the sky, I could see myriads of sparkling stars and even the galaxy. Unfortunately, I did not bring a camera. I regretted not taking a picture of that.



My Host Family

A Journey for a Lifetime

Woo Pak Sum, Sam (F.5D)

It was a great opportunity to travel to Australia as part of the study tour. This trip was amazing because I enjoyed the time there very much. It was a meaningful and memorable experience in my whole life.

On the first day, we went to the farm called Bestbrook Mountain Resort. After 11 hours of flight, we finally arrived at the farm. Unlike the hot summer in Hong Kong, it was winter in Australia and it was freezing cold. However, we could still smell the fresh air and appreciate the greenery on the farm. I was very excited and couldn't wait for the activities in the afternoon. At lunchtime, we tried the traditional local food. This was my first time trying those food and I found them great. After lunch, we enjoyed the sheep shearing show, boomerang painting class, animals feeding demonstration and horse riding sessions. Through these activities, we learnt the culture of traditional Australia and it was an incredible experience!

After staying on the farm for two days, we went to our school at Gold Coast where we met our host families. At first, I was very nervous to meet my host family whose members were strangers to me. But I knew I had to overcome such a feeling and be more positive. After the weekend, we got to know more about each other. I realized that communication with the Aussies was not as difficult as I had thought before. I felt very comfortable speaking with Aussies. Successful communication is not just about language skills, but the heart to listen and speak.

About my host family, apparently there are "five people". But there are only four in the family actually. Why? It is because there was a girl from Hong Kong staying with this family too! I was very surprised that I had a HongKonger as my "homemate". My host mother is called Wendy and her three sons are Bailey, Jacob and Thomas. They love soccer very much, and me too. We often played soccer after school or at the weekend. I enjoyed playing soccer with them a lot!

At school, we had about ten classes including English and Home Economics. It was fun to be taught by Ms Margie - my English teacher at St. Stephen's College. Afterward, we spent two days with the local students. It was incredible that I could have the opportunity to study with the students in Australia. The students there were very kind and I had a great time chatting with them.

In addition to learning in class, we participated in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and visited many attractions, including Sea World, Movie World and Surfers' Paradise. I love the Sea World most, because there were many marine animals like penguins, polar bears and dolphins. Furthermore, there were a lot of interesting shows like Dolphin Show, Extreme Water Sport Show and the 3D SpongeBob Dramas! They were awesome and suitable for people of all ages. I love it!

The last day was a beautiful day, which made me feel very hopeful about the future. I thought a lot on



this wonderful day. Although there may be obstacles ahead of us, we will not feel alone when we hold on to hope. No matter how frustrated and lost we may feel sometimes, we must hold on to hope. Keep our hope alive and we will become stronger after overcoming the difficulties. We need to have 'hope' even when it seems to be hopeless. It was hard to say goodbye, but I could carry back the good memories with me and share them with my friends in Hong Kong. I have had the great time with my host family and I miss them very much.

After ten hours of flight, we finally arrived at the Hong Kong International Airport. These 20 days were not simply for playing and studying, but an experience that I will never ever forget! Also, we have built up friendship with each other and confidence in using English as well! It is a delightful, awesome and memorable experience for me.



Sea World

Australia -- in the Eyes of a Hong Kong Student Tsoi Tsun Yin, Jeffery (F.5B)

The Australia Study Tour is an enriching experience for me. We went to Bestbrook Mountain Resort for the first two days to experience the culture of Australia. Then, we headed to Saint Stephen's College to meet our host families. Living with the host family was an undoubtedly rewarding experience. Through chatting with them, I understood much more about the Australian culture and lifestyle. Unlike HongKongers, they prefer to live in a relaxing way and spend more time with their families. Instead of work, family should be the first priority in their lives.

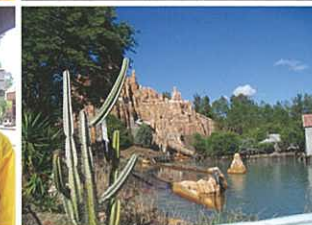
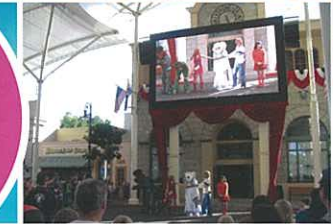
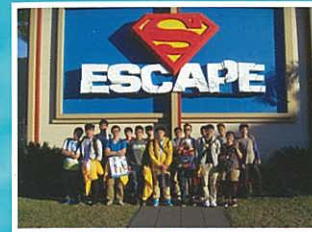
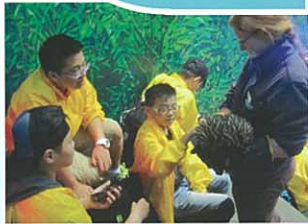
The scenery of Australia is very stunning and eye-catching. From the farm to the beach; from the mountains to national parks - all these amazing landscapes are definitely going to be stored in my mind.

Most importantly, the knowledge and friendship we gained at Saint Stephen's College is for sure irreplaceable. I met new friends from both Hong Kong and Australia. I also befriended with my study buddy who was always there for me at school.

This Australia Study Tour is unforgettable. I will never forget what I have learnt, experienced and seen in Australia with Aussies.



Curumbin Sanctuary



Movie World

Surfers' Paradise



School Life at St. Patrick's College



The Amazing Fauna and Flora Mak Tsz Wai (F.4A)

New Zealand is one of the most unique and interesting countries in the world and is ranked amongst the leading travel destinations. Despite (and perhaps because of) its remoteness and isolation, it is a land that touches the heart of everyone who travels here.

New Zealand is one of the oldest land masses which broke away from the Gondwanan supercontinent some 80 million years ago. As a result of this, it is isolated and it has developed a highly unique plant and animal life. Moreover, it is free from snakes and other dangerous creatures.

There are many species of native birds in New Zealand, including the flightless bird which has become the country's national symbol, the kiwi. The country has an incredibly diverse array of plants and trees. Some trees, such as the kauri in the North Island and the beech in the South Island, grow to an enormous size and age. There are many areas with magnificent forests throughout the country. Many of them have become part of New Zealand's National Parks.



My Memorable Experience in New Zealand Lam Wai Hon, Manfred (F.4B)

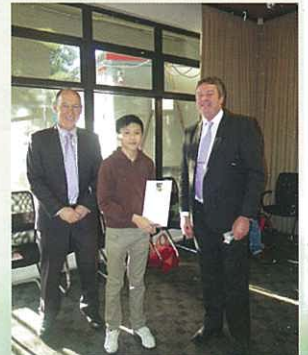
This trip to New Zealand is the best trip I have ever experienced. I have learnt a lot of things during this trip.

I am very grateful that I have been chosen to participate in this tour. During the whole trip, I was accompanied with my classmate Tom. We had a good time during these days.

The students mostly eat sandwiches and chips at St. Patrick's College. I didn't know why they seemed to be very full after having a meal. Except for my host family, they usually eat hot meals, such as rice, noodles and baked potatoes. The food was amazing. The host family treated us very well, and they helped us do our laundry every day.

During the trip, I got sick but my host mother took care of me carefully. She cooked fish and dumplings for me. Also, we went on several field trips every couple of days. A trip to Wellington Zoo was enjoyable. Wellington Zoo is nestled in the green belt of Wellington, New Zealand. Now it is over 100 years old and is dedicated to over 100 different species of fauna from across the globe. I could find the conservation efforts including breeding programs for endangered species and sustainability messages to people.

The journey was unforgettable, and I hope I can go to New Zealand once again and meet my host family. I would like to revisit the zoo too.



Wellington City

What A Wonderful Student Life in New Zealand

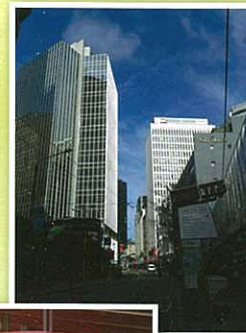
Chan Chun Hei (F.5B)

Thanks to this tour, I met many new friends and I learnt a lot of things. When I was in New Zealand, I attended lessons. It was a very good experience for me to improve my English and social skills. It enhanced my confidence to speak English much better because I had to speak English all the time in order to make friends.

Since it was the first time I went to New Zealand, I had to live with a host family. The Kiwis (the other name for New Zealanders) have a different life style compared with ours. They sleep and wake up very early. They focus much on food and health, especially the quality of life. After the study tour, I had to adjust my lifestyle accordingly.

The thing that I envied is the load of homework for students in New Zealand is not very heavy as the one for the students in Hong Kong. Also, they do not have any supplementary lessons after school. After school, they can play and nurture their hobbies. In this way, every student enjoys their school life very much.

If I had one more chance, I would go to New Zealand again because it is a very gorgeous place and it makes me feel comfortable.



Lindale Farm and Chocolate Factory



Movie and Valley Tour



South Coast Safari



Wellington Zoo

