

Thoughts on our trip to Australia, 2014

After a very, very long journey we finally arrived in Sydney on 10 March. The first thing we realized was that it felt much warmer there than in Germany. We were all very excited about meeting our Australian host brothers and sisters but after a good night's sleep we already left them again to go on our excursion to Canberra.

Canberra is the capital of Australia although cities like Sydney and Melbourne are much bigger. Nevertheless, there are quite a few things you can do in Australia's capital. Our group visited many of Canberra's popular museums like the National Gallery of Australia or the Questacon, an exciting science museum.

After two days we left Canberra for Kiama, a beautiful small town on the coast of New South Wales. In Kiama we stayed in beach cabins and had the chance to take a stroll on the beach or to go swimming in the pool. In the evening we cooked together and had a barbecue.

After only one night in Kiama we already got on the bus again to return to Sydney where we spent the weekend with our host families and friends. Some of us couldn't wait to go to the beach again and thus went to Coogee Beach with their host families on Saturday.

While our host brothers and sisters were studying in class during the week, we met up with our teachers to explore Sydney. We got the opportunity to see many of the city's famous sights like Sydney Harbour Bridge, the iconic Sydney Opera House, the historic district The Rocks, beautiful parks and also famous

beaches like Bondi Beach. One day our teachers did some speed walking with us: We went through the bushes and up and down the hills to get to Manly Beach. The scenic beach walk was really exhausting but on top of one of those hills we were rewarded by a beautiful view on the harbour and the city. Some of us even saw a kookaburra.

We also spent some time at our sister school Fort Street High, of course. Twice we got the chance to go to class with our host brothers and sisters so that we were able to get to know their way of studying and everyday life at school.

When we finally went to Sydney airport to fly back to Germany, some of us were happy to head back home while others were sad because we knew that we wouldn't see our Australian friends for quite a long time. In Berlin on 31 March, however, nobody was sad anymore because we were happy to meet our families again. All in all, the trip to Australia was one of the best experiences we have ever had in our school time; we met many new people, made new friends, saw lots of interesting places and the weather was much better than in Berlin where it was snowing while we were in Sydney.

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