

Reflection on Perth Study Tour 2014

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Before this study tour, I made a lot of expectations that I would like to gain from the trip. These include: to learn to be more independent, to build up self-confidence and to enhance my English skills. Of course, I have gained a lot from the trip but I realize that I could not say that all these expectations have been fulfilled. In fact, it serves as a good start of my learning journey – the learning of being a better person.

One of my learning chapter is when I visited Bold Park and Kings Park. These two places are the national parks Australians are very proud of. The tour guide told us about how Australian people take nature conservation seriously, they volunteer in planting different trees and plants in order to avoid the extinction of plant species in their land. Australia is a continent with the oldest and least fertile soils, many places are like deserts and are not suitable for plant growth. Moreover, I was so excited to find that what the tour guide told us was exactly the knowledge I have learnt in my Biology lessons. This has taught me that the daily learning in school is valuable as you go and explore outside the classroom.

The next learning chapter is the visit to Caversham Wildlife Park. I had the opportunity to see a lot of animals that could only be found in Australia, these include koalas and kangaroos. One inspiring thought I have got from the visit was when I heard about the non-native fauna, Red Fox. Red Foxes were brought from England by British when Australia became a British colony hundred years ago. The import of red foxes resulted in the extinction of some native animals in Australia many years ago. Through this visit, I learn that we should protect our environment wisely and we should maintain the balance of the ecosystem. For instance, we should not bring in non-native floras or faunas to a place that they do not belong to.

Participating in indoor rock climbing has allowed me to know more about myself. It was my first time and I felt excited but worried too. David and I were at the same team and we worked together while climbing. I tried my very best to climb up to the top and I did fail for several times. Finally, I was able to reach the top and rang the bell up there. I felt the pride and glory that came from my heart for accomplishing a challenging task. I shouted 'bravo' to myself too. This activity has helped me to build my confidence and it has also improved my problem-solving skills.

Last but not least, I have also learnt a lot from staying with my host family, Ms Cooper. She was a caring and loving lady. One of the most memorable part is that she taught us table manner. Wow, they are simple actions but it is not easy to maintain at all. Some examples are:

1. You should pull your chair in while eating.
2. You should sit straight.
3. You should put the food into your mouth but not your mouth to the food.

As I mentioned earlier, the trip is very meaningful as I was learning different things throughout the whole process. It has motivated me to keep on learning something new in every single day that I have.