



# WEP EXPERIENCES #29



## Jack from Italy Shares His Australia Day Experience

Australia is amazing! People are really easy-going I love it, the way they behave and they act! School is very strict but it's fun anyway!

The best day I had in Australia is Australia Day! I love barbecuing and talking with friends! It was very funny we've been at two parties! One had a really cool dunking machine which I tried of course, and the other one had a pool. It was a great day I had a good time!



Would you like to host a student in July 2015? Contact us now for student profiles and more information.



## Bieke From Belgium Tells Us About Her Aussie Summer Holidays 2015



January has been such an amazing month! To start off with, January 1st! While it was snowing in Belgium, I celebrated the New Year in summer at the beach with some friends. What made it even more special, is the fact that my friends and I celebrated the start of 2015 in Coolangatta, which is on the border of the time-zones (NSW-time and QLD-time), so we counted down to 2015 twice and got to see the fireworks twice as well. Such a unique and unforgettable way to start of the year!

Over the summer holidays I went to WA where I had an amazing time. I finally learned how to surf and some dolphins even joined us while we were surfing, which was absolutely awesome! Yet another tick off my bucket list; I went to Sydney and got to see the famous Opera House!

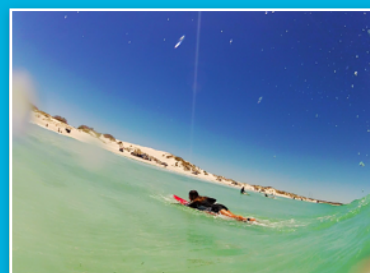
January wasn't only filled with joy, I had to say goodbye to my first host family that lives in Pottsville Beach. I absolutely loved the beach life, my friends and host family so that made saying goodbye extremely hard. But I had another adventure waiting for me, chapter two of my exchange began and I recently moved to my 2nd host family that lives in Albury. It's a bit of a contrast, from the East Coast to a country town, but I'm glad that I get to experience life in two complete different parts of Australia.

This year was the first time I've ever celebrated Australia Day, we had a big party at my host family's holiday house at lake Mulwala with a bunch of friends. The whole house was decorated, everyone dressed up, we made a pavlova, had a typical Aussie bbq and spent the day out on the boat and wakeboarding, such a great day!

I can't believe I only have 4 months left in Australia, the past 7 months have been unforgettable and I'm sure my last few months will be full of surprises and great adventures! My exchange wouldn't have been the same without the love and support from my friends, family, both my host families and WEP so a big thanks to all of them!

- Bieke, Belgium

### Some Snaps From Bieke's Holiday



## Helen From Germany Shares Her First Impressions



After I arrived Australia with all the other students from Germany, we drove from Brisbane to Noosa, where I met my host family for the first time. They were so nice and friendly to me, that it didn't take long before I felt comfortable. On the fourth day I met all the other students at the Sunshine Beach State High School, there our coordinator showed us the school, which is very big, but after a few days you get used to it.

On my first day of school I was really nervous, because we were only three people in Year 10 and I didn't know anybody, but they were all nice to me and I found friends very quickly. After school we often go to the beach and we always have so much fun together. The Australian people live pretty relaxed and are always friendly, you just have to be open to them and tell them if you have got a problem. The school and its subjects are really cool and so fun, for example there are subjects like Early Childhood Practice, Fashion Studies and Hospitality.

There are so many activities you can do in Australia and you should try as most as you can of them. So it is easier to make friends and it is always fun. There are also activities organised by the school, for example I'm going to have my first Surf Lesson with some other students on Thursday, a Lifesaving course on Wednesday and soon we are going to visit the Australia Zoo. Last weekend we spent a whole day at the beach, it is so lovely there and we had so much fun. We often also go shopping at Noosa Civic or in the Hastings Street, having an ice-cream at Massimo's Gelateria or having breakfast at Noosa River.



Although I had little problems of misunderstanding at the beginning, but we talked about it and now I am very happy here. I had and I think I will have a great time here in Australia.

## The Hosting Experience

Every year generous families throughout VIC, NSW and QLD volunteer to host an international exchange student for the duration of their time here in Australia. It is with the support and generosity of these families that WEP is able to create such a memorable program for all involved.

"We are all having a lovely time with our exchange student Caia (Carola). She is a gorgeous girl, has settled in extremely well and Phoebe is especially enjoying having a 'big sister'! (see left)

Thanks for the encouragement to pursue the WEP initiative, we feel very lucky to have the opportunity to share our world."





## Student Arrivals January 2015



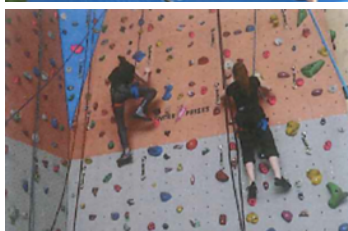
## HOST A STUDENT IN JULY 2015



**Olivier (17) from Belgium** loves getting outdoors and exploring nature. He is incredibly fond of animals, and tells us that snakes, spiders and crocodiles were part of his motivation for choosing Australia as his exchange destination.



**Marta P (17) from Italy** is an athletic student, participating in Viet Vo Doa (a martial art). She also enjoys, reading, listening to music, cooking Italian dishes and playing the guitar. Marta is fascinated and excited to learn about Aussie culture, animals, nature and habits.



**Antoine W (15) from France** is very fond of sport. He plays tennis, handball, basketball, table tennis and badminton. He can also play the drums and the piano. It has been a dream of Antoine's to come to Australia for a long time.