



Che Cai

Year 8

A new chapter in my life

For me, coming to Melbourne was a planned decision, while staying in Melbourne is a decision that is totally out of my control. In the era under the Covid-19, everything seems to have stagnated. Although I still feel that my life in Melbourne has just begun, in retrospect, I have lived in this city for more than a year and a half. In these times, tears; depression; happiness; loneliness. The sadness and sensitivity of puberty with the lockdown that seems to be endless, which unfortunately came together and opened the chapter of my life in Melbourne. This is how my story began.....

Just like other people living in North America, in order to escape from the long winter covered by snow and cold, people will go to a place that is full of sunshine for their holidays, therefore my family decided to come to Melbourne. It was March 2020 and Australia announced the closure of the border a few weeks after we landed in Melbourne. When I haven't had time to see what this city looks like, when the only impression of this country I have is the view of my hotel, my father told me that he decided to stay here forever. This is where things started to go off track. For me at the time, this decision was impulsive and irresponsible, but I couldn't say anything. So when I started to accept my sudden change in life trajectory, I didn't have a yearning and excitement like other international students. Although this city is known as the most livable city in the world, I don't think so.

At that time, I didn't have any friends because of my English skills and personality. All kinds of weird bugs in my room, the pressure, and the argument with my father, all of these things make me very depressed, and I can't even hide my emotions at school. So for the first time in my life, my science teacher sent me to the wellbeing centre. This bittersweet memory can be said to be the first crack in my frozen heart. After changing schools, the lockdown was cancelled for a while, so I went to hang out with my new friends. I saw the beautiful buildings in the city, I learned about many special cultures in Melbourne, also I have always received kindness from everyone that I meet, no matter if they are strangers or the people I know.

When I wrote this article, the Covid situation in Melbourne suddenly became severe, so that the long days of lockdown began again. But I am no longer anxious anymore, I am ready to enjoy my favorite weather, rain. So the people who are reading my story, I hope you will eventually fall in love with this city the same as me and I hope one day we can all throw away our masks and enjoy Melbourne's sunshine and fresh air together.