



**Nicole Li**

Year 8

## The Beginning in Melbourne

When I set my foot on this magical land with eagerness and tension for the first time, I did not expect an epidemic to happen suddenly.

Before coming here, I had imagined admiring the exquisite Melbourne museums and art galleries, strolling leisurely in the alleyways and arcades, visiting Federation Square and the Great Ocean Road with my family and friends, or going to get close to lovely animals. However, everything was affected by the epidemic, just like my life. The completely unfamiliar environment and language made me feel anxious, and I couldn't relax and appreciate the beautiful scenery because of the fear of the virus. I was starting to feel homesick.

This reminds me of the past. At that time, I often hung out with friends and family. We laughed together, whispered together, tasted different delicacies together. It was not annoying even when we stayed in the library all day without talking, the occasional smile when we look up from books is enough to make us happy. We enjoyed the sunshine and time.

However, what people often said with smiles, "Enjoy life!" puzzled me now. I cannot find anything to enjoy, I thought.

Until one day, my friend invited me to take a walk with her. Although I was a little worried, we set off together. To my surprise, the sky was clear, and the afterglow of the setting sun was like spilled fresh orange juice, very tempting. The people on the street wandered leisurely, with a smile that couldn't be concealed by masks on their faces. A few birds were pecking at the millet scattered on the balcony, the lazy cats squinted and purred softly, with the unfinished milk next to them gleamed in the sun. Several people sat on the lawn and chatted happily. It touched me, I could not remember how long I haven't seen this beautiful scenery. It turned out that I missed such precious scenes when I lowered my head and felt sad. Life in Melbourne would not be worse than before, or it would even be better as long as I can first relax and blend in here.

For the rest of that day, I visited the streets and alleys of the city with my friend and listened to her talked about the interesting things around us and laughed. We found a cute bird and tasted a cake with a strange taste. I tried to smile at the people passing by and greeting each other, It is not difficult, I thought, I love this feeling! After that, rambling in the street plus enjoying a cup of hot chocolate has become the norm in my life. I know I can really find fun here and enjoy my life.

This is how my story began ...