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PEOPLE, NATURE AND FUTURE LINKED BY TIDAL FLAT

**GEELONG DAYS**



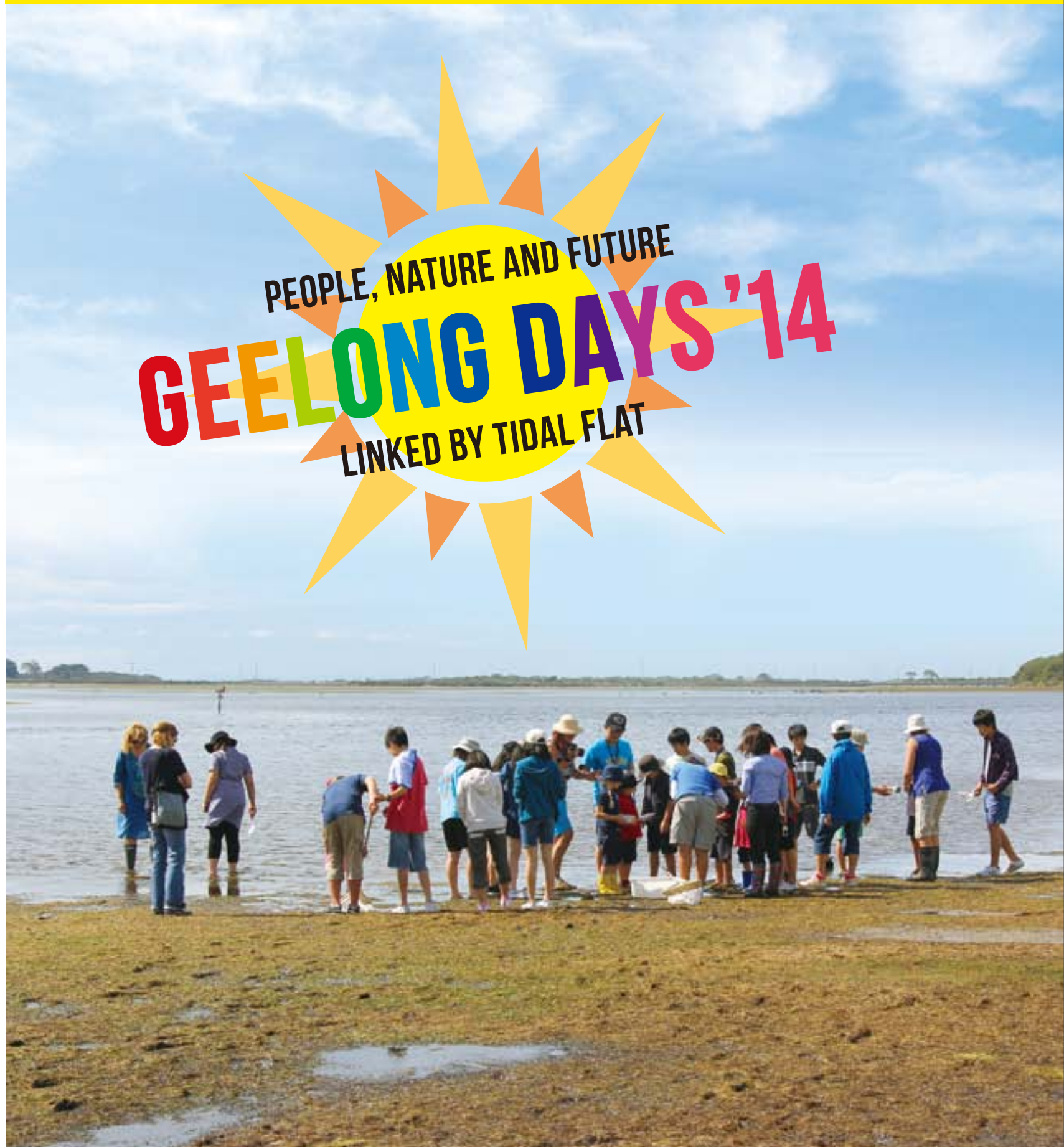
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NAGOYA JAPAN >>> GEELONG AUSTRALIA

PEOPLE, NATURE AND FUTURE  
**GEELONG DAYS'14**  
LINKED BY TIDAL FLAT



**GEELONG DAYS'14**

FY2013 Student Dispatch Program based on the Wetland Affiliation Agreement  
with the City of Greater Geelong, Australia

**Report**





## Introduction

In March 2014, 18 junior high school students from Nagoya flew across the ocean to visit Geelong City, Australia. Geelong is a port town in the southeastern part of Australia. Nagoya, which is located along the route of migrant birds, has a Wetland Affiliation Agreement with Geelong.

The purpose of the students' visit to Geelong was to learn environmental preservation measures employed in Geelong, and to interact with local people to deepen understanding with the hope of fostering individuals capable of preserving the environment. So then, what did these students see, hear, feel and learn from their trip?

This report summarizes what students experienced in Geelong. The students were actively involved in the creation of this report, deciding on what to include in each page and writing manuscripts.



## Departure



The scenery from the window was beautiful.

March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 a.m.	Departure from	Centrair
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4:45 p.m.	Arrival in	Singapore
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:15 p.m.	Departure from	Singapore
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:50 a.m.	Arrival in	Melbourne

**To Australia via Singapore**  
**Nervous but excited about travel by air.**

There were 18 members and we were separated into 3 groups. We studied again and again in preparation for this trip. Finally, we departed from Chubu International Airport by air, changed airplanes in Singapore and flew to Melbourne. Then we went to Geelong by bus. Some students had never been on an airplane before, much less abroad. We were anxious about whether we could handle this trip without any problem. At the same time, we were excited at what lay ahead.



Departure Ceremony at Centrair. Everyone looks nervous.

## Changi Airport

Changi Airport in Singapore is huge and even has its own train. We saw Japanese convenience stores which we are familiar with. The airport is wonderfully equipped and was voted the world's No.1 airport.



Sky Train at Changi Airport.

The in-flight meal.  
Looks delicious.







## Arrival in Melbourne

We began with Melbourne sightseeing including Captain Cook's Cottage and a greenhouse.

In Melbourne, the first destination in Australia, we visited the Fitzroy Gardens, a huge park. In the park stood the birth home of Captain Cook, a marine explorer of the 18th century, and a greenhouse botanical garden with many beautiful flowers.



Roses and other flowers were blooming beautifully in the greenhouse botanical garden.



Captain Cook's Cottage was built with bricks brought from the United Kingdom.



We hadn't played tag in a long time. It was fun!

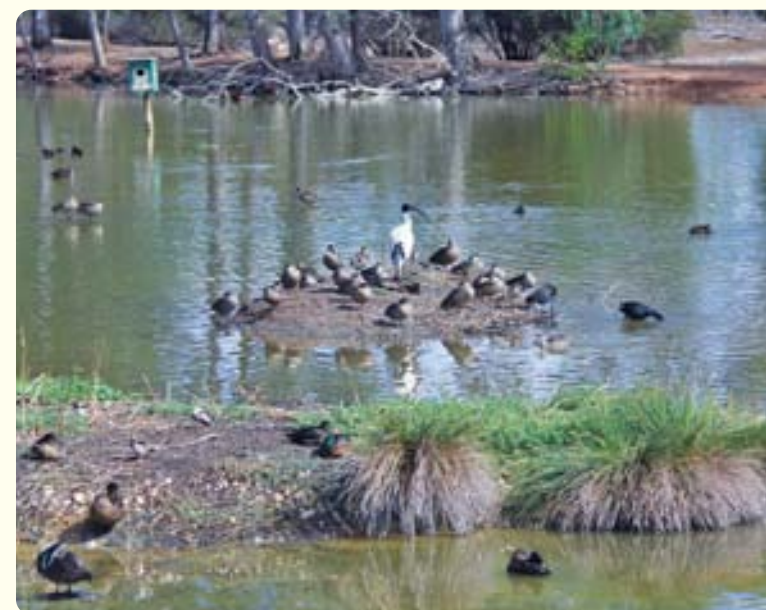
### Playing tag at night in the park

After sunset, we played tag in the park. We chased one another and all became good friends. We also found a few mysterious cat-like animals with eyes that glowed dim red in the dark.

We found a mysterious animal! It's so cute with its fluffy tail♡



## Serendip Sanctuary



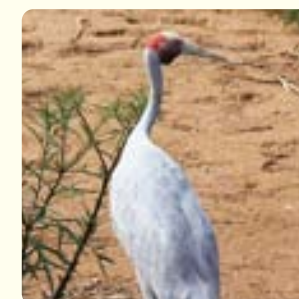
We were able to closely observe various birds.

### Seeing emus and kangaroos in the wildlife protection area.

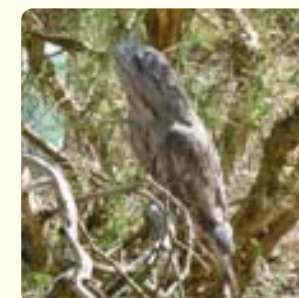
Serendip Sanctuary, which is located in the north of Geelong, is a wildlife reserve with a vast area of 250 hectares. This facility works to increase the number of birds and other animals that are in danger of extinction. When we arrived, we were surprised by a huge emu that appeared in front of us. Animals are protected in the wild, and the staff work to make sure that animals do not get too used to humans.



Jumping contest with a kangaroo! Which one do you think can jump farther?



Brolgas inhabit Australia. They are also called Australian cranes.



There was a bird that looked like a tree. We didn't know the name.



Emus welcomed us.

### At the end of the first day

It was a day of long travel outside of Japan with members traveling together for the first time. We were all nervous, and there were some problems like some members feeling sick. We were relieved that we arrived safely at Geelong.

It was a long day, but seeing students energetically running around in the park at night made us adults feel energized for the next day.

We hope students will be able to make a good speech when we make a courtesy visit to the City of Greater Geelong.





## Courtesy visit

At the welcoming ceremony and morning tea, English is used for speeches and conversation!

We were warmly welcomed by Geelong City staff at the National Wool Museum. At the welcoming ceremony, the leaders of each group made a speech on their expectations and ambitions for the trip.

Then, we had morning tea, which is a custom in Australia, and nervously conversed with the Geelong City Office staff. They were very friendly people.



Welcoming Ceremony. Representatives of Geelong and Nagoya exchanged commemorative gifts.



We talked about various things with Geelong City Office staff. It took courage for all of us to speak in English but we did it.



Kumicho  
(Daichi Mikami)



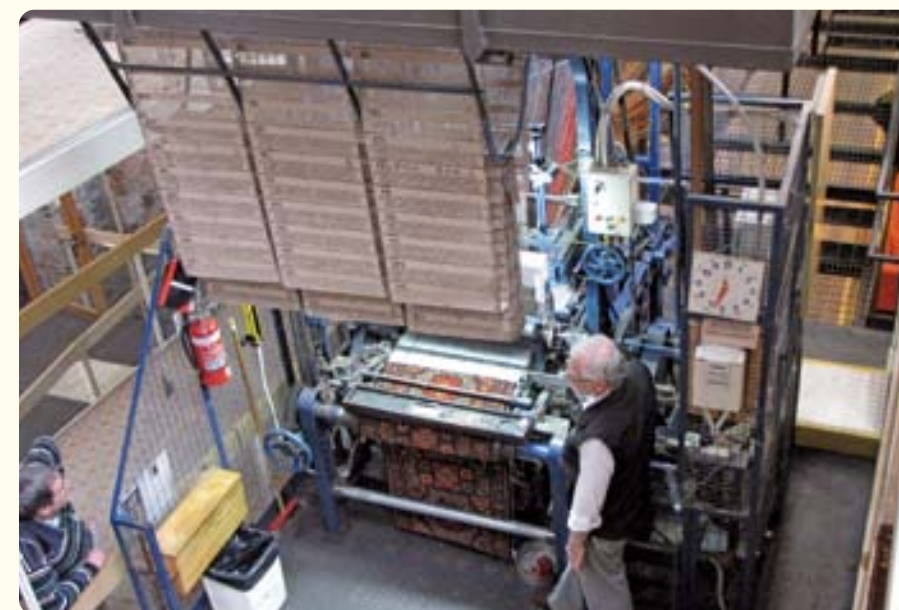
Yoshi  
(Yoshihiro Kimura)



Eriya  
(Eriya Yamamoto)



## National Wool Museum



Antique loom still weaves rugs.



Bag filled with sheep wool.



Wool is bid over this desk.



The Wool Museum building was beautiful. You can feel the historical atmosphere.

Impressed by the antique loom Shopping for souvenirs of Australia.

We took a tour of the museum after the ceremony. There were many items on display that interested us, such as a cubic bag containing wool and a desk for wool "bidding," but of all these many interesting things, we were especially impressed by a huge machine used to weave wool thread into rugs. The machine was so big that it filled the open ceiling space from the second to the third floor. It was an antique loom but was still stably weaving rugs while making a lot of noise.

After the tour, members enjoyed their first shopping in Australia at the Museum shop. Some of the items were goods only sold here, such as boomerangs, stuffed animals and post cards.





## Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary

What is everyone touching and taking pictures of? It's a monkey.



We touched many different animals. The spines on the echidna were hard.



Students tried their hand at feeding kangaroos.

**Interacting with koalas and wombats**  
**Learning the importance of protecting nature.**

Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary shows a variety of Australian wildlife, such as koalas, and protects wild animals that have been injured.

This facility also captures and breeds endangered animals, as well as operating a Pet Hotel to receive pets that their owners put them in when they go on a trip.

The facility operates from entrance fees, charges for pet hotel services, and donations.



Dingoes have now become mainly mixed breeds.

### At the end of the second day

It was impressive to see nervous students trying very hard to communicate, give their speeches in English and interact with Australian people during morning tea at the courtesy visit. At Jirrahlinga, the staff was kind enough to allow students to touch different animals, including koalas and wallabies.

Students must have had a real sense of being in Australia. Students were becoming friends and beginning to form a good team.

Tomorrow will be the day to visit Queenscliff Primary School, the visit that students have looked forward to the most. We hope it will be a sunny day tomorrow.



## The Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre

There were many unusual sea creatures.



We fed Australian crabs. I was scared thinking they might bite my hand.



**Enthusiastic guiding by the local elementary school students, observing marine life up close.**



Meeting the local elementary school students. Everyone was curious to know who would be his or her partner♡



Exterior of the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre that blends into its surroundings. It looks like a secret base!

Marine Discovery Centre is a facility that displays living things inhabiting Swan Bay. We formed groups with a ratio of 3 junior high school students from Japan to 2 Queenscliff Primary School students to walk around the centre together. Queenscliff students were enthusiastic in guiding Japanese students.

In this centre, there is a water tank where visitors can touch marine life with their bare hands. We were able to feed Australian crabs. Deadly poisonous blue-ringed octopuses that change color when angry were also displayed.





## Queenscliff Primary School

Its atmosphere is completely different from schools in Japan.



Front gate of Queenscliff Primary School.

Presentation by Team Kimura



Presentation by Team Kumicho



Presentation by Team Eriya



Let's go to the Swan Bay Tidal Flats located right by Queenscliff Primary School!



We enjoyed interaction with local students by making presentations and playing rugby. We became a "cultural bridge" between Australia and Japan.



Queenscliff students studied about Japan and had made crafts.



Queenscliff students listened eagerly.



We enjoyed playing Australian rugby.

Queenscliff Primary school is a small school of only 12 students. It seems there used to be many more students so the school premises and school buildings are spacious. There is a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere at the school.

First, each group made presentations. Each group decided on a theme. We talked about Nagoya City and the Fujimae Tidal Flat. Queenscliff students listened with great interest. I think we were able to become a "cultural bridge" between Australia and Japan.

After lunch, we played Australian rugby with the elementary school students. Queenscliff students were small children in the second and third grades, but they kicked the ball high over tall trees on the field. We, on the other hand, weren't used to the oval shaped ball; no matter how hard we tried to kick a ball straight, it always went to the opposite direction.





## The Swan Bay Tidal Flats

Looking for fish, crabs and other marine life at the tidal flat where birds migrate from Nagoya.

There are over 100 wetlands in Geelong City, and most of the wetlands are registered under the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat). One such wetland is the Swan Bay Tidal Flats where birds migrate from Siberia via the Fujimae Tidal Flat and other wetlands. We were able to realize that the wetland plays an important role for these migrant birds and other small animals.

We went to the Swan Bay Tidal Flats with Queenscliff Primary school students. With careful observation, we were able to see small fish and crabs in the water. We enjoyed observing them as local students explained the names of living organisms, their features and how to catch them. Japanese students had a hard time finding and catching these creatures, but local elementary school students easily caught them and put them in the bucket one after another.

We took pictures together with local elementary school students at the Swan Bay Tidal Flats.



We were able to see black swans with binoculars.



The floor of the tidal flat was so soft that our feet sank in, making it hard for us to walk.



It was nice of the local elementary school students to try hard to communicate with us despite our limited ability to speak English.



Queenscliff Primary School students' knowledge about the Swan Bay Tidal Flats and the creatures that live there show how conscious they are of the environment.

Surprised that there was no trash Reluctant to part with local elementary school students.

No matter where you looked, there was not a single piece of trash at the Swan Bay Tidal Flats. At the Fujimae Tidal Flat, a trash clean-up campaign is held several times per year, collecting tons of trash each time. Local people say that anyone seeing even one piece of trash at Swan Bay Tidal Flats would pick it up. It was surprising that there are so many people who actually pick up trash that they find.

After leaving the tidal flats, we observed creatures we found and talked about them with local elementary school students. We were able to deepen our friendship.

We washed our feet and returned to the elementary school. The local students gave us handmade cards, pencils, memo pads and pamphlets. We were really sad to say good-bye. We took pictures together, and some students were even hugging each other.

Time to say good-bye. It was so hard to say good-bye to all the students as we became good friends with them.



### At the end of the third day

Under beautiful sunny weather conditions, we spent a day with local elementary school students, which was the highlight of the trip. Though students from Japan studied about Australia while in Nagoya, what they experienced on-site was valuable and priceless.

Students of the two cities were awkward at first, but as they spent time together and got to know each other, they became good friends. It was impressive to see that they were reluctant to part with each other.

There is only one more day left in Australia. Time passed quickly but days were very fulfilling.





## Returning home

Dynamic  
whale bones.



Many stuffed animals were displayed.

**Impressed by the unconventional method of display at the museum**  
**Returning home with precious memories of the trip.**

We visited the Melbourne Museum on the last day. Unlike museums in Japan, the displayed contents were unconventional. We were met by huge whale bones and a Zero Fighter.

We also saw gigantic bones of dinosaurs and stuffed endangered species. Seeing these things that we had never seen in Nagoya was a valuable experience.

After that, we went shopping in Melbourne for the last time. There were so many interesting items. But some students were disappointed when they realized the souvenirs they purchased were not made in Australia ... Everyone had lots of memories and souvenirs as they returned to Nagoya.



We bought  
lots of souvenirs  
to remember  
this trip  
to Australia.



The last group photo taken in Melbourne.  
Don't you think they look very different from  
the way they did in the Departure Ceremony?



## This is Geelong City

**Port city prospering from automobile manufacturing**  
**Rich nature with abundant greenery is another attractive point.**

Geelong City is located in the southeastern part of Australia, approximately 1 hour's drive from Melbourne. With a population of 280,000, this port city prospers from automobile manufacturers, such as Ford.

The city is filled with green, and blessed with a rich natural environment.



The City Office building is the symbol of the city.



There was  
a huge landing bridge  
and the area is filled  
with a port-town  
atmosphere.



Cars drive on the left side,  
the same as in Japan.



Waterfront landscape.





## Geelong memory Sugoroku board game

Filled with happy memories  
Re-experience the trip  
with a Sugoroku game

The memories of 4 days in Australia  
were made into a Sugoroku game.  
Playing it might give you a feeling of the  
fun trip we had. Try playing the game.







## Menu List

**We enjoyed meals!  
Meals in Australia.**

One of the joys of traveling is delicious food. Let us introduce some of the food we had in Australia. There were some dishes that we had for the first time. They were all delicious. We really enjoyed the meal!

March 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch

RESTAURANT: BARWON ORANGE

MENU: •Beef burger, rocket, aioli,  
tasty cheese, beetroot chutney  
•Chips  
•Drinks



Australian food

March 26<sup>th</sup> Dinner

RESTAURANT: EMPIRE GRILL

MENU: •Bread Rolls  
•Crispy Battered Whiting Fillets  
•Garden Salad  
•Aioli  
•Drinks



Australian food

March 24<sup>th</sup> Lunch

RESTAURANT: TSINDOS

MENU: •Mixed Dips  
•Pita Bread  
•Saganaki (Fried Cheese)  
•Greek Salad  
•Meat Platter  
•Drinks



Greek food

March 24<sup>th</sup> Dinner

RESTAURANT: Restaurant in the hotel

MENU: •250gm beef rump with  
mustard mash & seasonal vegetables  
•Chocolate pudding and  
vanilla bean ice cream



March 25<sup>th</sup> Dinner

RESTAURANT: LA PORCHETTA

MENU: •Salt & Pepper Calamari Salad  
•Penne Alla Matriciana  
•Gelati



Italian food

March 27<sup>th</sup> Lunch

RESTAURANT: DRAGON BOAT PALACE

MENU: •Cha Chai  
•Spring Roll  
•Seafood and Bean Curd Soup  
•Steak with Black Pepper and Honey Sauce  
•Mandarin Pork Ribs  
•Chicken with Fried Noodles  
•Special Fried Rice  
•Tea and Oranges



Chinese food



## The Fujimae Tidal Flat



The Fujimae Tidal Flat is one of the major stopover sites in Japan for migrant birds.



We learned a lot of things at the Fujimae Tidal Flat.

### Treasure chest of living things near us.

From as far back as we can remember, separating trash has been a part of our life. But we learned that trash separation started long before we were born because of Nagoya citizens. They made a united effort to separate and recycle trash to greatly reduce the amount of trash thereby avoiding the danger of landfilling the Fujimae Tidal Flat with trash.

We would like to use the experience of this dispatch as an opportunity to convey what we learned about the importance of the Fujimae Tidal Flat and environmental preservation in Nagoya, and continue to think about what we can do by ourselves.

### Observing the Swan Bay Tidal Flats casts new light on the Fujimae Tidal Flat

We learned that the Fujimae Tidal Flat has many living things and serves as a stopping point and a breeding site. We would like to continue to think about the Fujimae Tidal Flat and the environment of Nagoya, and act in a way which takes them into account.



Japanese mud shrimp



Littoral spoon clam, etc.



Asian clams, goby, etc.





## After the dispatch

What we saw, heard and learned  
Our experience in Geelong  
will be used in the future

What did those 18 junior high school students dispatched  
to Geelong as delegates of Nagoya City learn and feel?  
We asked them to reflect back on the four days.



After returning home,  
we presented the results  
at "the Nagoya  
Environment Day"  
and "ESD Symposium."



● SCHOOL  
**Kamisawa  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Risa Imata**



I was surprised that there was almost  
no litter at the tidal flats in Australia. I  
learned that local people strong  
awareness of the value of conservation  
and sanctuaries for animals.

● SCHOOL  
**Nagoya University  
School of Education  
Affiliated Upper and  
Lower Secondary School**

● NAME  
**Kazuchika Iwata**



I felt uneasy when I was left behind at  
a restaurant. I was motivated to study  
English more.

● SCHOOL  
**Takinomizu  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Tomoki Ota**



I noticed that same ingredients are  
cooked differently from Japan, and that  
the timing of green lights is shorter in  
Australia than in Japan. I felt that "the  
world is a big place."

● SCHOOL  
**Shinpo  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Kona Ogawa**



There was no litter in the Swan Bay  
Tidal Flats wherever I looked. I want to  
help create the same kind of  
environment for the Fujimae Tidal Flat.

● SCHOOL  
**Hibitsu  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Naruki Obata**



The experience was more "surprising"  
than mere "fun." I want to maintain and  
heighten my interest in nature.

● SCHOOL  
**Kaminokura  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Mizuki Kazaoka**



The Swan Bay Tidal Flats were much  
cleaner than the Fujimae Tidal Flat and  
had less garbage. I was surprised at the  
strong awareness of the local people.

● SCHOOL  
**Hokuryo  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Yoshihiro Kimura**



I learned about time differences and  
food culture first hand. I would like to be  
more careful about my health.

● SCHOOL  
**Yamada Higashi  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Manami Kuriki**



Meeting elementary school students in  
Australia made me realize that I hadn't  
done anything for the preservation of the  
environment. I would like to start with  
something I can reasonably do.

● SCHOOL  
**Aichi Shukutoku  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Mayuna Kondo**



To express the trip in a single phrase,  
"Everything was the first time for me."  
I was strongly motivated to study  
English more.

● SCHOOL  
**Nanzan Girl's  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Kyoko Sano**



I wanted to follow the example of the  
local people's awareness of coexisting  
with nature and have a lifestyle that  
includes participation in conservation  
activities.



● SCHOOL  
**Makinoike  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Miki Tanaka**



I enjoyed touching sea animals at the touch pool at the Marine Discovery Centre. It was a very good experience.

● SCHOOL  
**Moritaka  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Asako Nakagawa**



I was able to experience many things. I was particularly surprised at the Australians' strong awareness of the need for environmental preservation. I hope to visit Australia again in the future.

● SCHOOL  
**Shidami  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Eriya Yamamoto**



I didn't know much about the environment, but I was able to learn the importance of protecting living things and the environment.

● SCHOOL  
**Aichi  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Riko Yoshida**



I was able to experience something different from a family trip, like seeing efforts for the preservation of the environment that differed from those of Japan.

● SCHOOL  
**Miya  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Daichi Nakamura**



I was surprised to see that there was no litter in Geelong. It would be nice if Nagoya could be like that in the future.

● SCHOOL  
**Kita  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Gensuke Matsui**



I had lots of problems communicating in an English-speaking country; but it was good to experience a culture so different from that of Japan. I hope to make use of this experience in the future.

● WORK  
**NPO Fujimae  
Ramsar Society**

● NAME  
**Douglas S Jarrell**



Students saw with their own eyes the animal sanctuary system and activities of local students near Geelong, and realized the importance of the environment.

● WORK  
**NPO Fujimae  
Ramsar Society**

● NAME  
**Yuko Manabe**



I envied the students who learned an exciting lesson from an elementary school nestled in nature.

● SCHOOL  
**Shioji  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Daichi Mikami**



I was moved by the vastness of Australia and the grandeur of its nature. If I have an opportunity, I would like to visit there again and enjoy the area.

● SCHOOL  
**Marunouchi  
Junior High School**

● NAME  
**Toya Yamanaka**



My goal was to make friends in Australia. As I left Australia, the local elementary school students said "Let's take a picture together" and this was one of the most pleasing things for me.

● WORK  
**Nagoya City  
Office employee**

● NAME  
**Mayumi Kwarada**



I was impressed by the students' relaxed facial expressions. I wish to maintain the feeling I experienced during the trip into days to come.

● WORK  
**Nagoya City  
Office employee**

● NAME  
**Yuji Isobe**



I saw a big potential in these children who became more active over time. I look forward to their growth from now on.

Here are the comments of adults who joined this trip.