

Ganhando o Mundo (Winning the World)

Paraná State Scholarship Program, Ganhando o Mundo (Winning the World), is fully funded scholarship program, organised by the State Government of Paraná, supports high-achieving public-school students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to study abroad. Students travel to destinations such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom for a one-semester high school experience.

Once again, Centenary Heights State High School was honoured to be selected as one of the program destinations in 2025, and we were delighted to host five students: Guilherme, Melissa, Davi Eduardo, Eddie, and Hallana.



From the moment they arrived, we ensured their semester was rich, meaningful, and memorable. In addition to the curriculum support provided at school, students were given opportunities to participate in cultural and experiential activities such as NAIDOC Week Indigenous games, a visit to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, sightseeing and picnic at Spring Bluff, resilience training at Emu Gully, laser tag and bowling for fun social afternoons, the Australian Outback Spectacular as a farewell experience, and a Movie World excursion to celebrate the end of their term..

As the program came to an end, the students had much to share. They all expressed that their time at Centenary Heights not only enriched their stay but also influenced their personal growth and future aspirations.

Davi expressed how impressed he was with the differences between Centenary Heights and his school in Brazil. He said he loved *“the vast subject choices... the many opportunities like workshops, excursions and fun activities... and the amazing people who taught me words in different languages and shared their cultures with me ... I am now more resilient, more proactive, better at speaking in public, and overall, a better person than I was before.”*



Hallana shared that *“my friends from drama class gave me a lot of support with my English and helped me fit in during these months here in Australia... our teachers always encouraged us to give our best and taught us in the most patient way possible... and our excursions, especially Emu Gully, helped us learn to work as a team and get to know each other better.” “I learned to be more independent and not to be afraid of trying new things, which will help me a lot later on. Coming to Australia and speaking English can help me get a good job and a good university.”*





Eddie told us *“I have been enjoying my time being a Centenary Heights International Student in Australia... the people at school are so friendly and take a lot of care of us... the trips with the International students like the Outback Spectacular, the Lazer Tag, the bowling, the Lone Pine koala, all of them were amazing “our homestays, and the ISP staff, are so careful about the details to make sure we all have the best experience possible.”*

Melissa mentioned *“the teaching method, the teachers, and the subjects are amazing here,” “I loved Hospitality, Rural and Film... I learned hands-on skills like cooking, hazards and safety, planting, caring for animals, using tools, and in Film, how to record, write scripts and edit.” “The teachers were caring, supportive, and always willing to help us learn... I will miss them a lot.”*

Guilherme expressed *“I would like to thank EQI and Centenary Heights ISP team for all the care and attention they give to their students... I never imagined how studying in another country would change the way I see the world, or how cultural differences could be so striking.”* He



recalled his first days, saying, *“I felt lost and out of place among so many people, but with the help of staff like Tracey Ferguson and Yao Wu, I was able to settle in and find my place in this beautiful country and state.” “I developed a deep affection for Queensland and a genuine desire to build my life here... and I hope that in the future my children will be able to enjoy this wonderful education.”*

Farewelling this group of friendly, respectful, and grateful young people is truly hard. During their time at Centenary Heights, they embraced every opportunity, built strong friendships, challenged themselves in new environments, and grew in confidence, independence, and cultural understanding. It has been a privilege to witness their personal and academic development, and to see how deeply they engaged with our school community. We wish them all the very best for their future, and we hope that one day they will return to visit the Centenary Heights community that will always welcome them back with open arms.