

CENTENARY HEIGHTS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Safety - Respect - Learning

Testimonial from Marika Tsunogai, 2022

My name is Marika Tsunogai. I joined Centenary Heights State High School in Toowoomba as one of the students supported by the Tokyo Board of Education Study Abroad Program, at the beginning of term 2 in 2022. The three terms I have spent in Toowoomba have been unforgettable in my life.

Before I arrived at the school, I was really nervous because I couldn't speak or understand English well. However, the teachers and friends at the school provided me with enormous help. All of the teachers helped with my understanding of the subject content, both in the classroom and after the lessons. Also, my friends taught me so many things about the school and the city. I was very overwhelmed with all the differences I experienced at the school compared to my previous school in Japan, but my friends spent every break with me, teaching me all the new things to ensure that I could take full advantage of my time here. During the breaks, I took part in a variety of activities at the school with my friends and I even won a 5-dollar tuckshop voucher once. I am very grateful that I met such nice friends at Centenary Heights State High School who brought me lots of joy during my time in Australia. We also sometimes talked about different cultures with other international students, and I really enjoyed learning about them as it broadened my vision. A special experience that I cherish is that I joined the school's instrumental program and played the trumpet in the school orchestra, concert band, and stage band. Being a part of the school band enhanced my perception of being valued by the school community. The program gave me many opportunities to participate in various musical events, through which I could communicate with people in a wider community



Centenary Heights State High School is a great place to study, and Toowoomba is a wonderful city to live in and enjoy life. Although I only spent half a year there, I fell in love with the place.



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