



Saturday, August 26th Day Trip

The trip to North Stradbroke Island started at 8:10am, ahead of the scheduled 8:30 start, with the driver, named Nathan, meeting everyone at the Nathan Campus. The tour was very well organized with Nathan taking the group all around for the day. As it was an all-inclusive tour, there were no extra costs (something that is very important to ensure a smooth trip). The first stop was nearby Moreton Bay (for sightseeing), followed by a 45-minute ferry ride over to the island. As everyone was allowed outside of the van on the ferry ride, it was an excellent time to see the bay. The tour delivered everything that was promised: wildlife (kolas, kangaroos), sea life (dolphins and whales) and photo opportunities that were at both Point Lookout and Amity Bay. Lunch was pre-arranged at *Seashells at Amity* restaurant with delicious fish and chips, and dessert.



North Stradbroke Island is part of a chain of islands that are made up of sand, and is therefore a popular vacation spot for locals. The slow atmosphere of island life was ever-present.

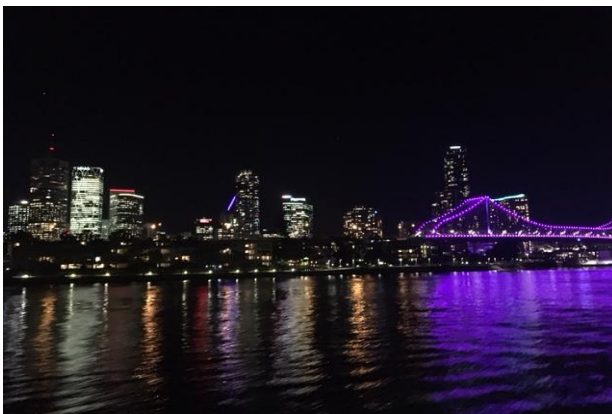


Finally, there was a visit to Brown Lake that allowed for cold swimming and ample photo opportunities. Swimming in the lake was a refreshing way to complete the tour, just before taking the ferry back. The lake was deep, and dark though very clean, but as it was winter, it was rather cold. Since it was so cold, there were no other swimmers in the lake when everyone from Kobe Gakuin went into the lake for a swim.

Nathan the Driver



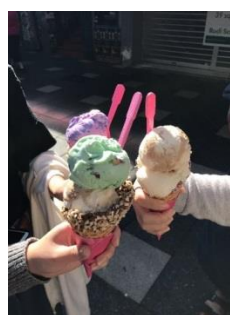
The return to the campus was by 6:00 and then most of the members went for dinner in downtown Brisbane. The evening was an excellent end to another adventurous day.



The Third and Final Week (September 4 to 9)

The class moved to the Nathan Campus, and all members were placed together in a single classroom, which was a big change from the first two weeks. The instructor was Seva

who taught four skills English with lots of classroom participation. The morning classes ran from 8:30 to 12:30 with a half-hour break. After the classes were over students tended to gather outside of the building where the classroom was, Building N06, for lunch before going to each of the afternoon programs. Seva, was quite popular with the students, and the classes ran smoothly as she built a very good rapport with the students. In the afternoons there were a variety of different events from Monday through Thursday, with Friday reserved for a graduation party.



MONDAY Aborigine show

On Monday there was an afternoon learning and experiencing about the first peoples of the country, and that started at 1:30. It was held outside, and the presenter was Eric Rosser, son of the noted Aboriginal author Bill Rosser (*This is Palm Island*). The outdoor theater was an ideal location to host the event: well within the trees that are so abundant in the Tooley Forest's bushland setting that is the campus.



Before the students arrived, Eric had prepared the grounds with kangaroo skins, beeswax, seashells filled with traditional clay, black plumbing tubes for creating traditional music from and ostrich feathers. He began by talking about what the Aborigine people were about. And within the forest setting and closeness to nature completely absorbed everyone when he spoke.

After his discussion, he proceeded to pick up two of the fire-making sticks that had been laid out on a kangaroo skin. These sticks consisted of one with a hole in it, and another that was cut to fit into the hole. Inserting one end into the other and rubbing, Eric started a fire rather quickly. He then instructed the students to try to create their own fire. While he made it look easy, it soon proved that it was not, and was very difficult to repeat. As the students continued, one by one Eric painted everyone's hands with the traditional clay. Later several of the male students opted for face and hair painting as well. Meanwhile, everyone used beeswax to fasten ostrich feathers to their hair. This seemed to bring everyone closer to the earth, and the feelings deep tradition as Eric told the story of the emu and how it was represented in the face painting (for example, three strips painted on cheeks).

Later, the group was taught the proper stance for throwing boomerangs and could practice with his coaching. The final event of the afternoon was the creating of music with modern materials though the results were deep traditional sounds. The *didjridu* is originally made from wood, but the plastic tubes provided worked very well to create the unique music.

Overall, the students stayed behind long after Eric had left, and there were strong feelings of satisfaction voiced by all.



TUESDAY Marriott Hotel

A unique opportunity was arranged for the second afternoon event: a behind the scenes tour of a major hotel. The Tuesday tour of the Marriott Hotel Brisbane started at 1:30, being picked up at the same place at the Nathan Campus by 360 Tours with the company.



The hotel is located near the waterfront of Brisbane and is considered a 4-star hotel. It has 223 rooms, and there are 143 staff members, not including the outsourced cleaning staff. The person in charge of the tour was Daina who is the head of HR for the hotel. She showed everyone around several levels of the hotel, beginning with main conference rooms. Students could then see how the floors are divided: this was followed by the boardroom and business centers. In addition, there was a viewing of the kitchen areas and pool.

During the tour we were able to see two rooms: a standard room; and the presidential suite. That was the one that President Obama used on his trip to Brisbane, and at \$3,000 to \$5,000 per night, it was a very unique opportunity for everyone to visit and see.